



Space Weather impacts on satellites at different orbits



Outline

- ✓ Prelude
- ✓ Orbits
- ✓ Different types of SWx effects on satellites
- ✓ Satellite anomalies from the recent March 2012 SWx events

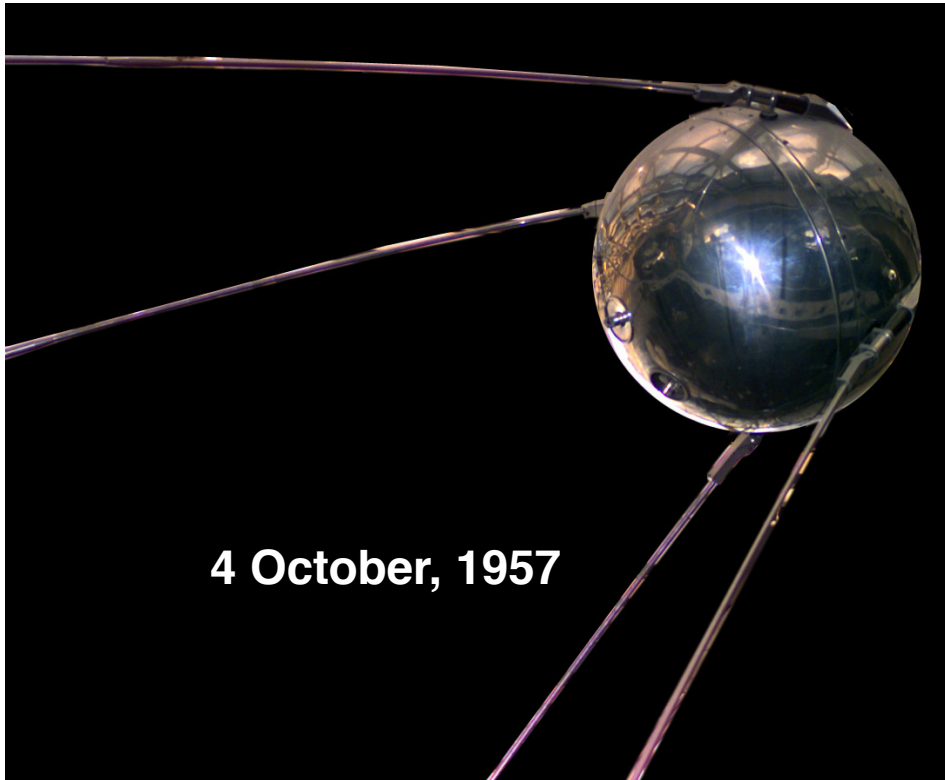
Yihua Zheng
June 10, 2013

SW REDI

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Please do not distribute



1st satellite launched into space



The world's first artificial satellite, the **Sputnik 1**, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957.

marking the start of the [Space Age](#)

International Geophysical Year: 1957



Space dog - Laika



the occupant of the Soviet spacecraft [Sputnik 2](#) that was launched into outer space on **November 3, 1957**



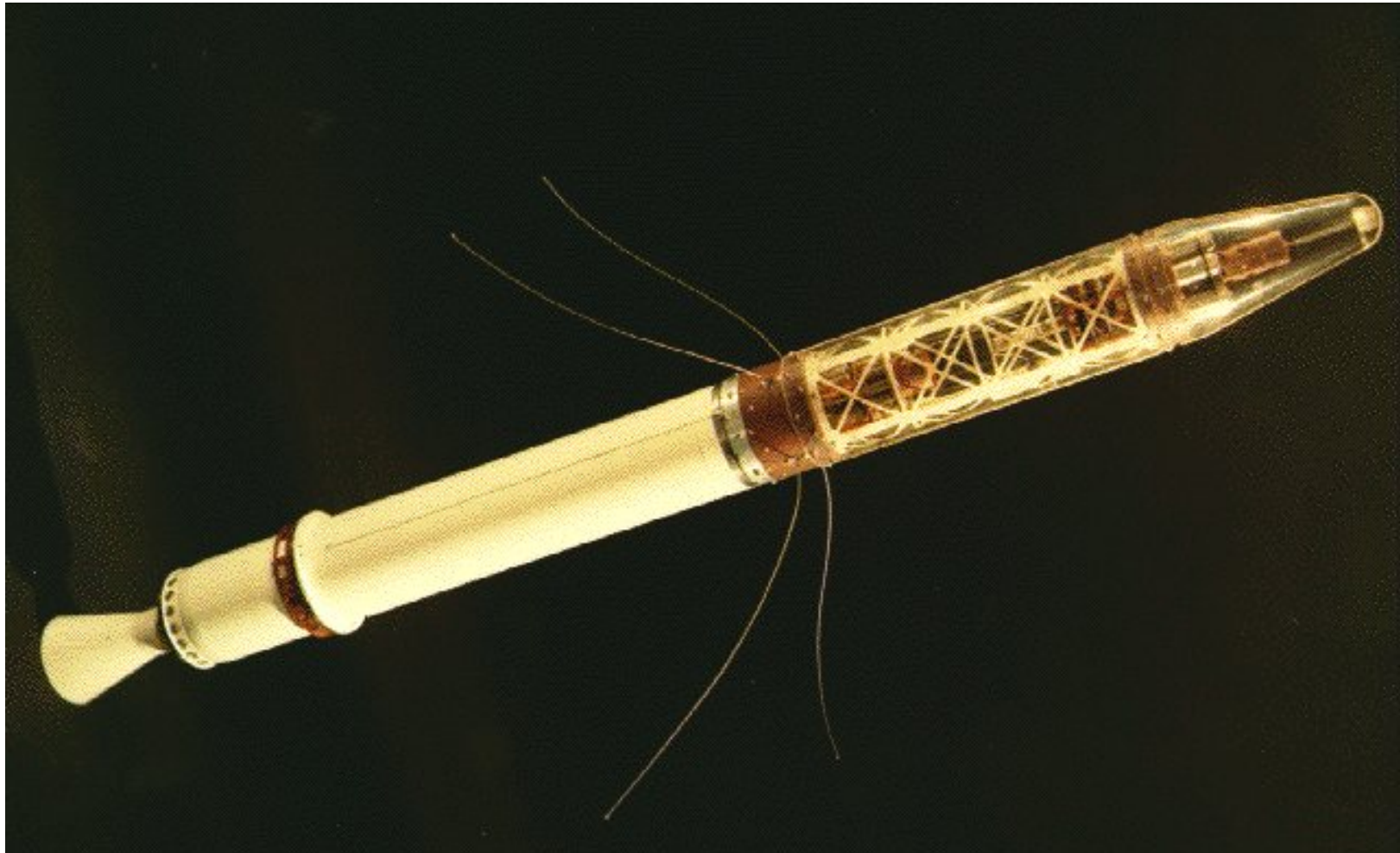
Paving the way for human missions



Explorer I – 1st U.S. Satellite



- Explorer 1, was launched into Earth's orbit on a Jupiter C missile from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on January 31, 1958



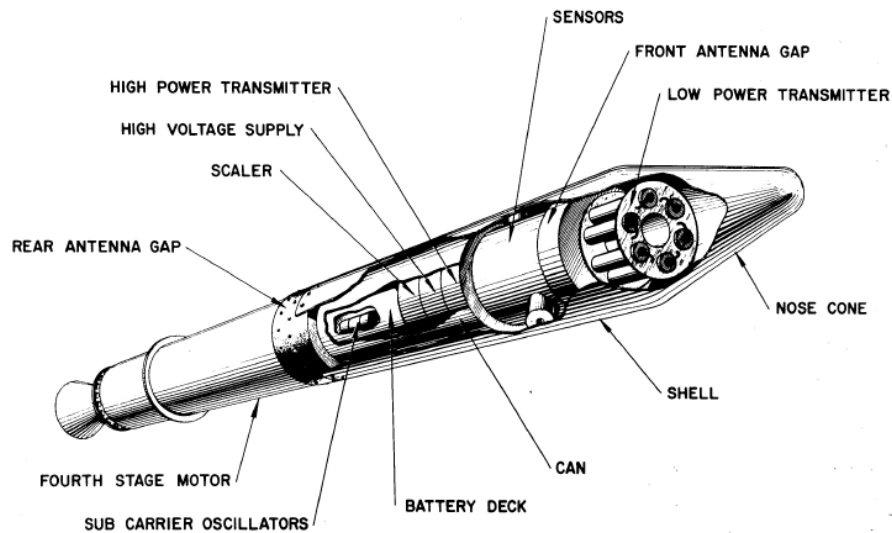


Discovery of the outer Van Allen RB



NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, D.C.



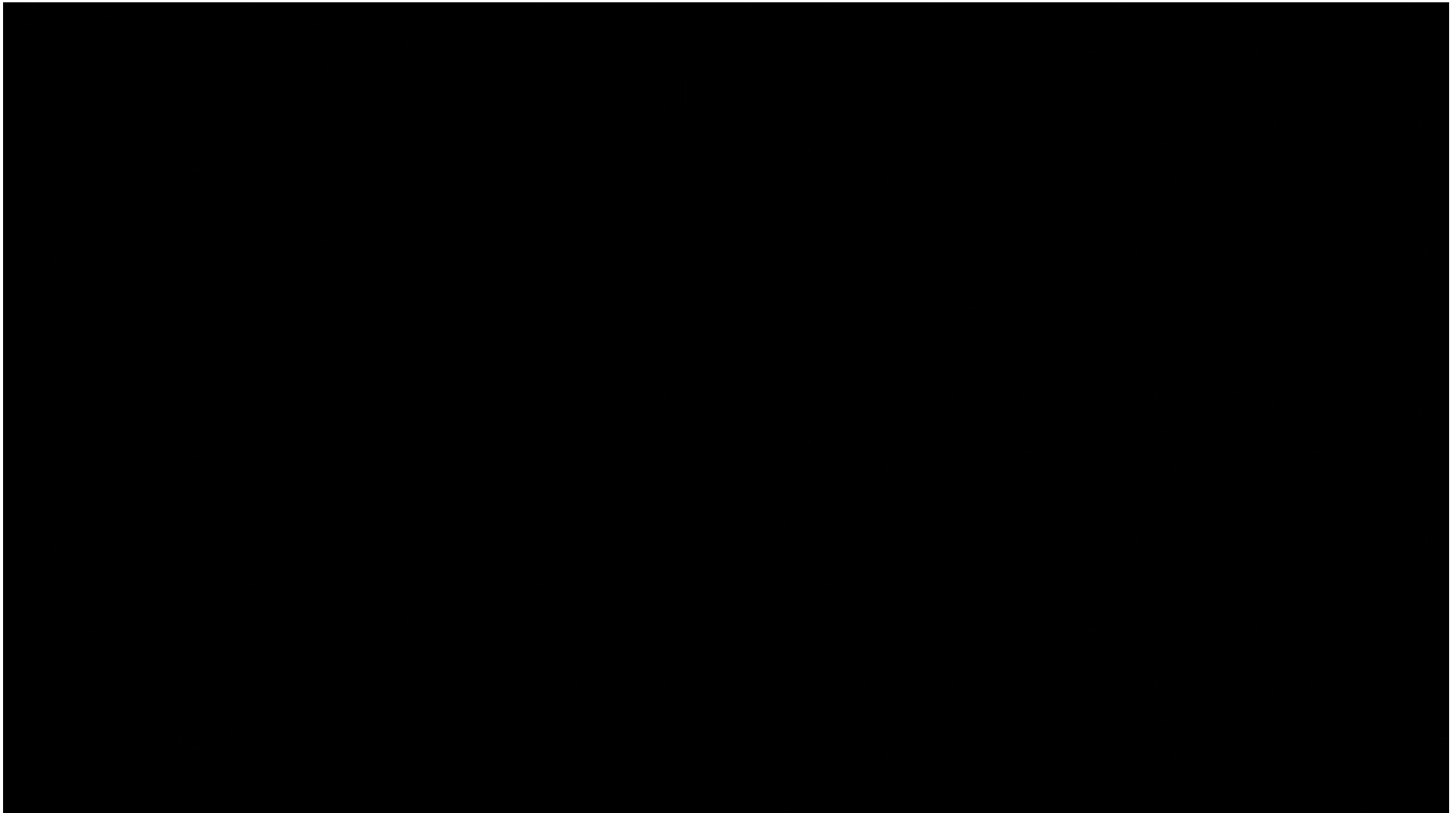
EXPLORER IV



Pioneer 3 (launched 6 December 1958) and Explorer IV (launched July 26, 1958) both carried instruments designed and built by Dr. Van Allen. These spacecraft provided Van Allen additional data that led to discovery of a second radiation belt

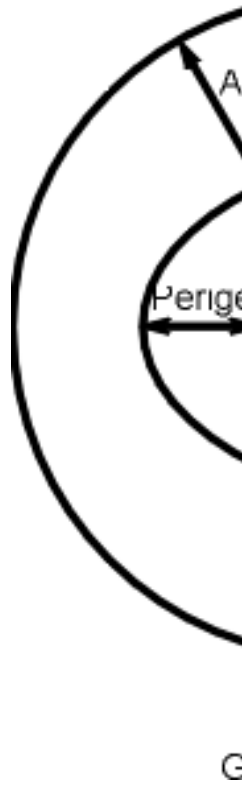


Van Allen Probes – more than half-century later





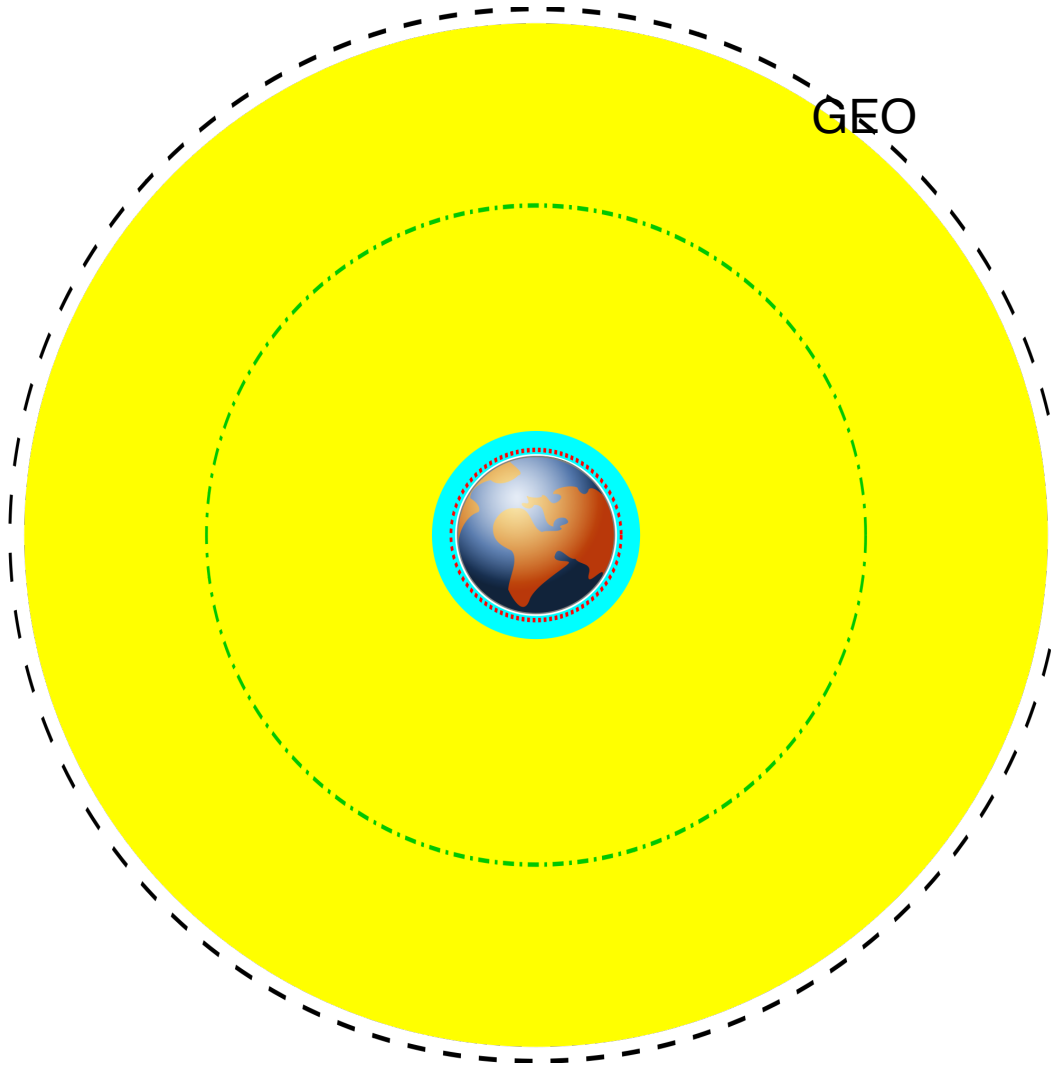
Orbits



ORBIT NAME	ORBIT INITIALS	ORBIT ALTITUDE (KM ABOVE EARTH'S SURFACE)	DETAILS / COMMENTS
Low Earth Orbit	LEO	200 – 1200	
Medium Earth Orbit	MEO	1200 – 35790	
Geosynchronous Orbit	GSO	35790	Orbits once a day, but not necessarily in the same direction as the rotation of the Earth – not necessarily stationary
Geostationary Orbit	GEO	35790	Orbits once a day and moves in the same direction as the Earth and therefore appears stationary above the same point on the Earth's surface. Can only be above the Equator.
High Earth Orbit	HEO	Above 35790	



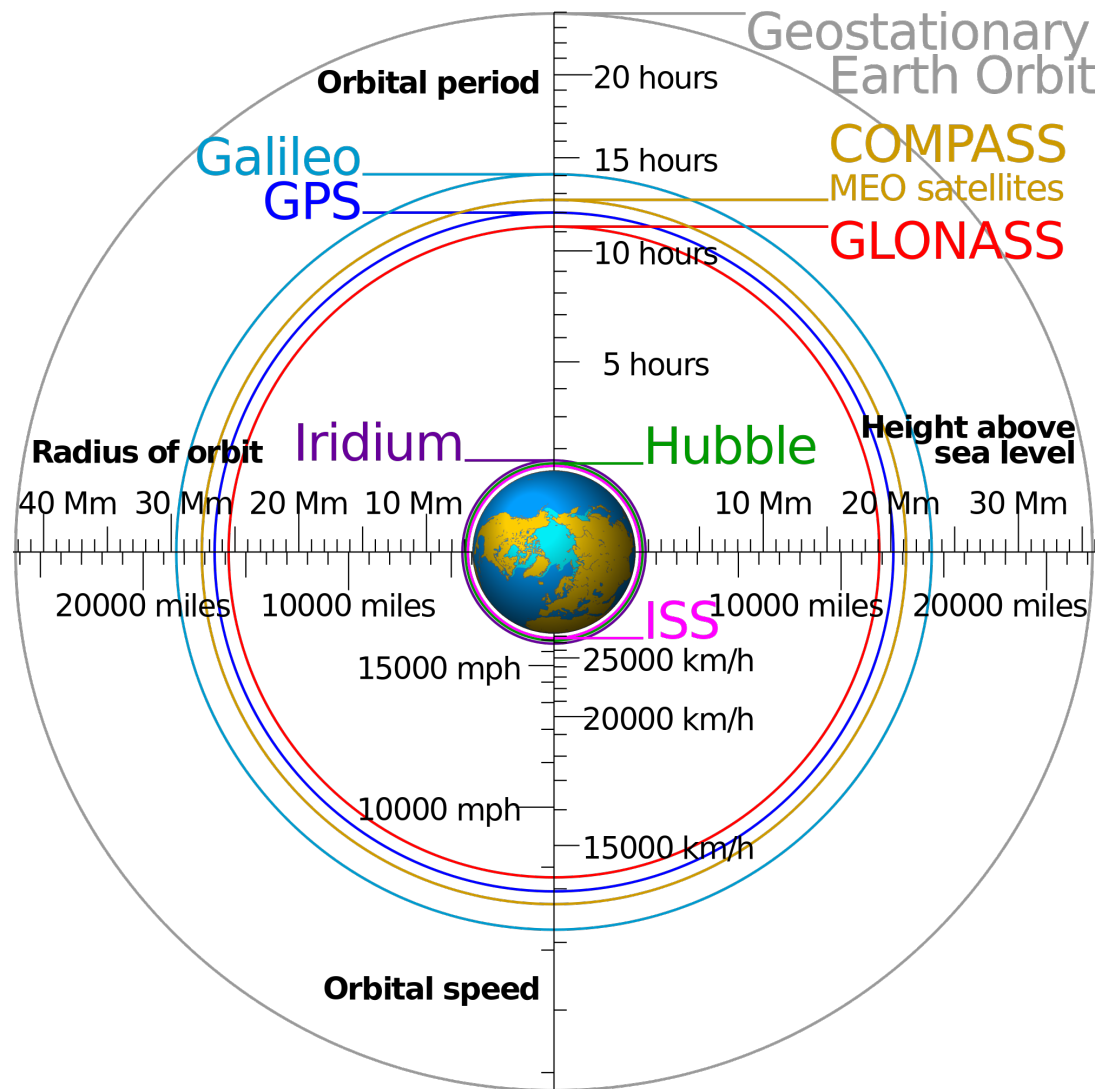
orbits



Yellow: MEO
Green-dash-dotted line: GPS
Cyan: LEO
Red dotted line: ISS



orbits





Orbits



- A **low Earth orbit (LEO)** is generally defined as an orbit below an altitude of 2,000 km. Given the rapid orbital decay of objects below approximately 200 km, the commonly accepted definition for LEO is between 160–2,000 km (100–1,240 miles) above the Earth's surface.
- **Medium Earth orbit (MEO)**, sometimes called **intermediate circular orbit (ICO)**, is the region of space around the Earth above low Earth orbit (altitude of 2,000 kilometres (1,243 mi)) and below geostationary orbit (altitude of 35,786 km (22,236 mi)).



Orbit classification based on inclination

- **Inclined orbit:** An orbit whose inclination in reference to the equatorial plane is not zero degrees.
 - **Polar orbit:** An orbit that passes above or nearly above both poles of the planet on each revolution. Therefore it has an inclination of (or very close to) 90 degrees.
 - **Polar sun synchronous orbit:** A nearly polar orbit that passes the equator at the same local time on every pass. Useful for image taking satellites because shadows will be nearly the same on every pass.

DMSP satellites



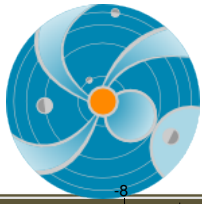
GTO



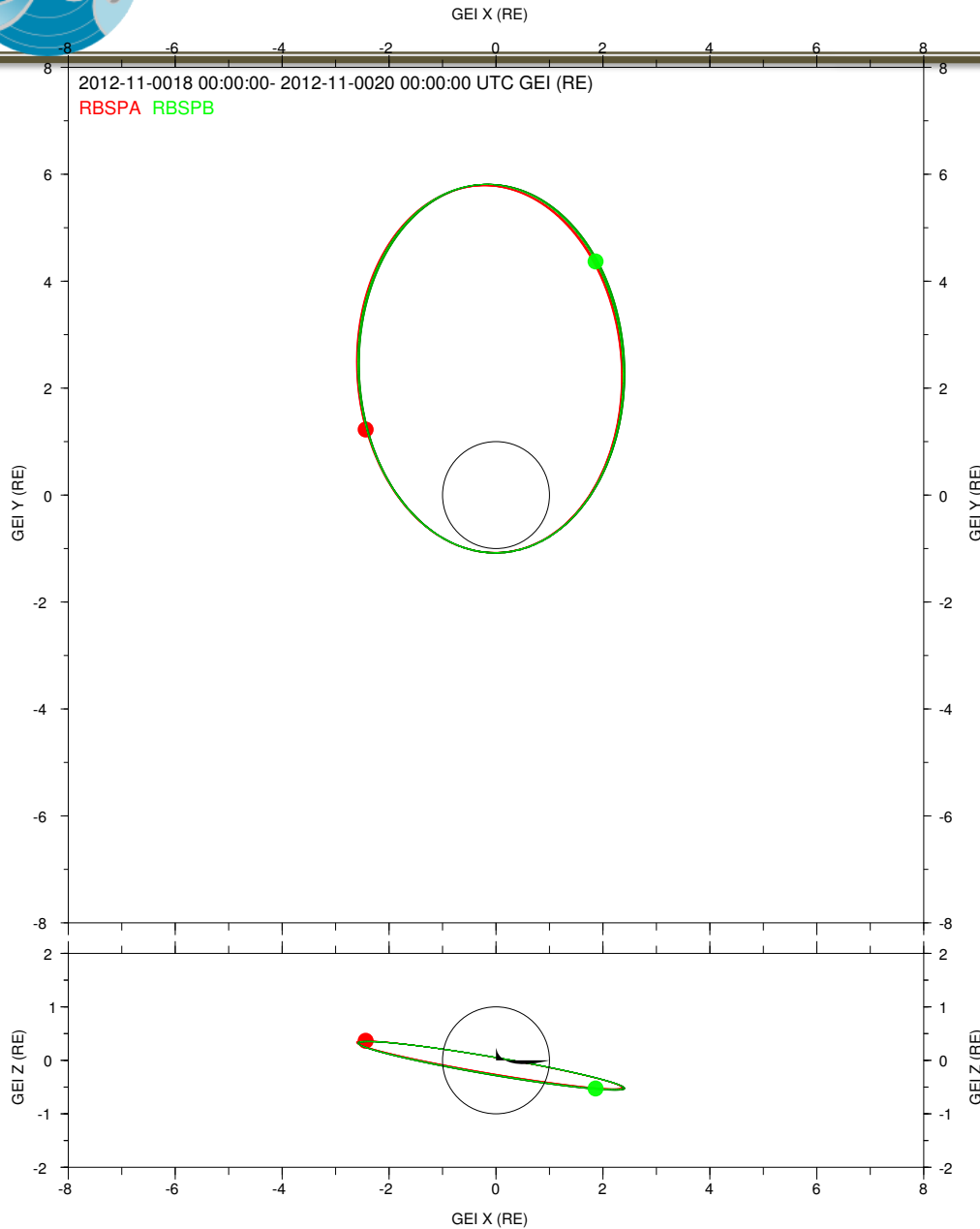
- A **geosynchronous transfer orbit** or **geostationary transfer orbit (GTO)** is a Hohmann transfer orbit used to reach geosynchronous or geostationary orbit. It is a highly elliptical Earth orbit with apogee of 42,164 km (26,199 mi). (geostationary (GEO) altitude, 35,786 km (22,000 mi) above sea level) and an argument of perigee such that apogee occurs on or near the equator. Perigee can be anywhere above the atmosphere, but is usually limited to only a few hundred km above the Earth's surface to reduce launcher delta-v (V) requirements and to limit the orbital lifetime of the spent booster.

SDO

The rapid cadence and continuous coverage required for SDO observations led to placing the satellite into an inclined geosynchronous orbit



Van Allen Probes



**Highly elliptical
orbits at 11 degree
inclination from the
equatorial plane**



Other types of orbits



Heliocentric orbit: An orbit around the Sun.

STEREO A and STEREO B

Interplanetary space

At different planets



Orbit/Mission Design



- New Horizon to Pluto
- http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/newhorizons/main/index.html

<http://www.jhu.edu/jhumag/1105web/pluto.html>

Dr. Yanping Guo, a mission design specialist at APL

Reduce the journey by three years



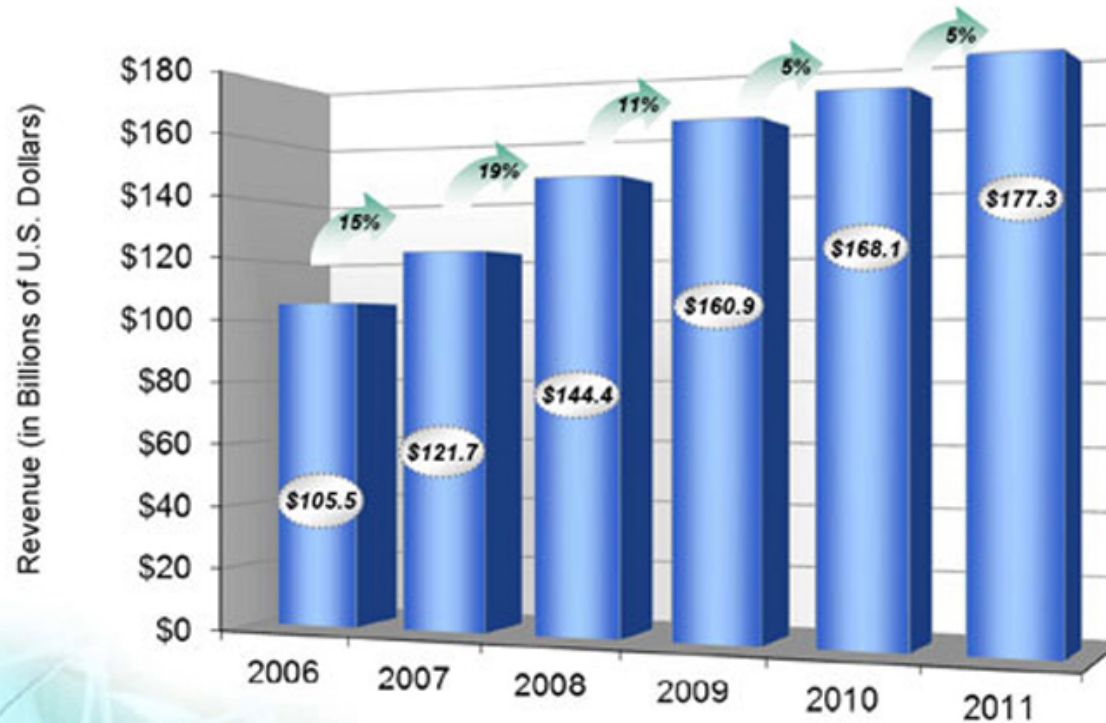
Space Weather impacts on spacecraft operation



Increasing dependence on satellites



World Satellite Industry Revenues



World satellite industry revenues posted average annual growth of 9% for the period from 2006 through 2011



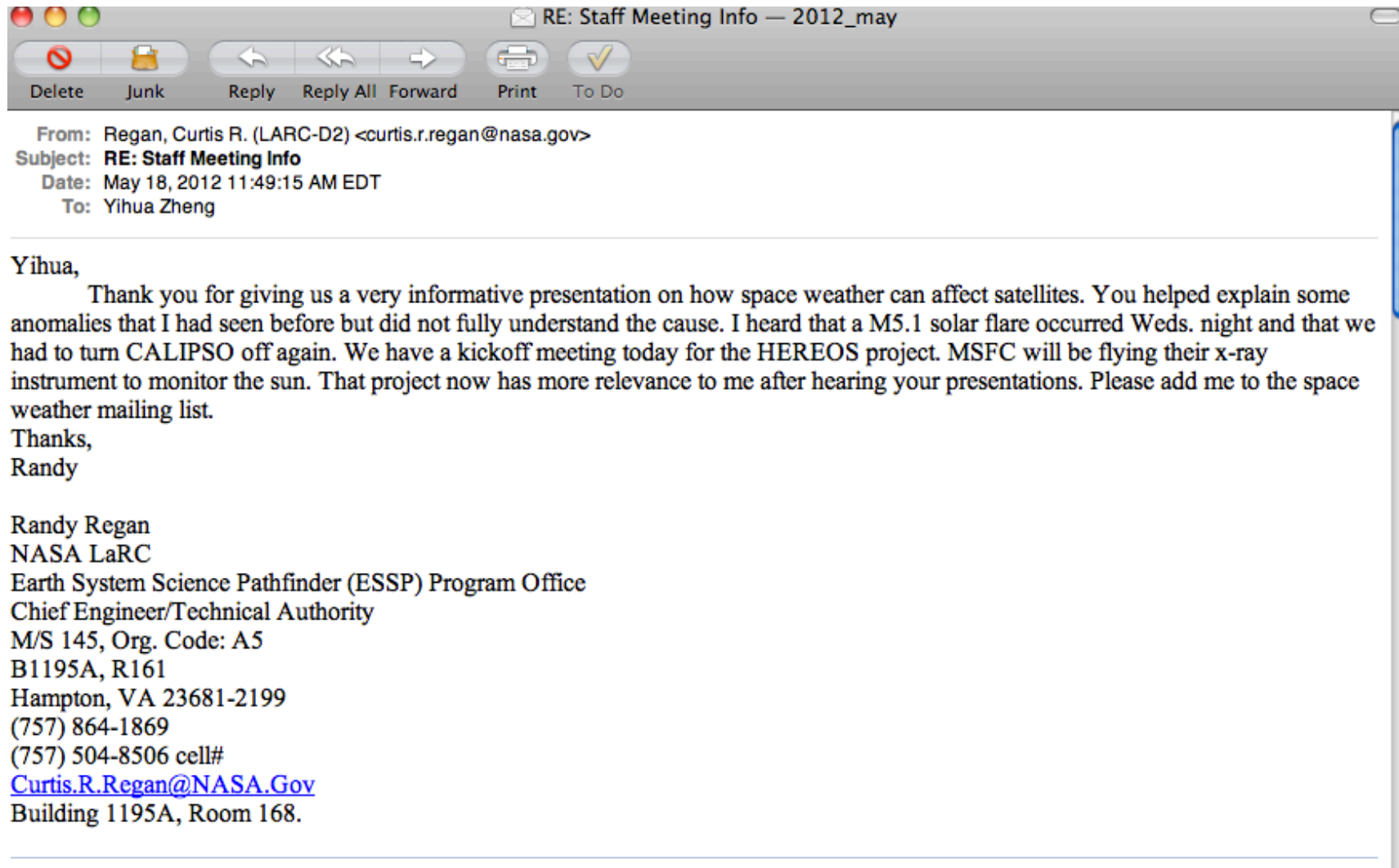
Missions lost/Terminated Due to Space Environment



Vehicle	date	diagnosis
• DSCSII (9431)	Feb 73	surface ESD
• GOES4	Nov 82	surface ESD
• DSP Flight 7	Jan 85	surface ESD
• Feng Yun 1	Jun 88	ESD
• MARECS A	Mar 91	surface ESD
• MSTI	Jan 93	single event effects
• Hipparcos	Aug 93	total radiation dose
• Olympus	Aug 93	micrometeoroid impact
• SEDS 2*	Mar 94	micrometeoroid impact
• MSTI 2	Mar 94	micrometeoroid impact
• IRON 9906	1997	single event effect
• INSAT 2D	Oct 97	surface ESD

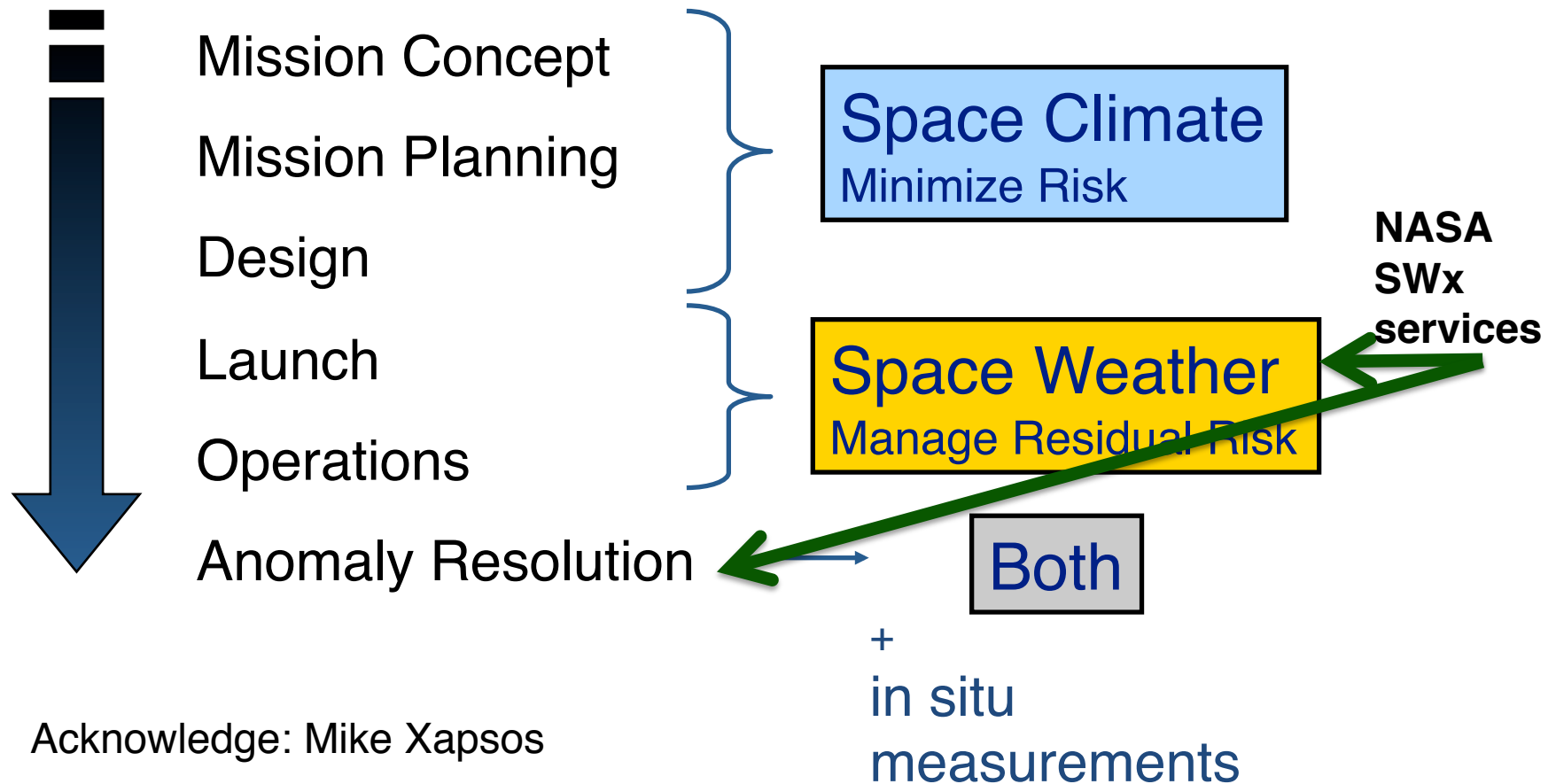


Importance of SWx Services





Space Environment Model Use in Mission Life Cycle



Acknowledge: Mike Xapsos



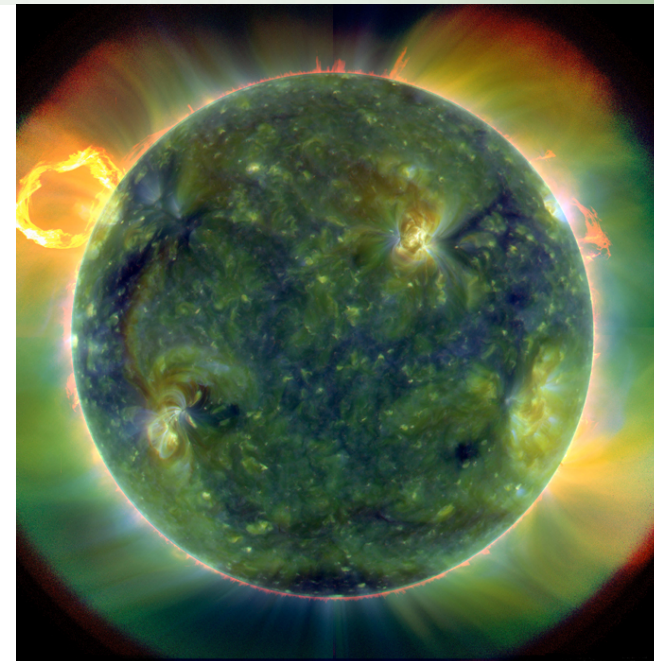
SWx Services provided by NASA/ SWC



NASA SWC: Types of SWx Services



1. Providing assistance in spacecraft anomaly resolution by assessing whether space weather has any role in causing the observed anomaly/anomalies.
2. Sending out weekly space weather reports/summaries to NASA mission operators, NASA officials and involved personnel.



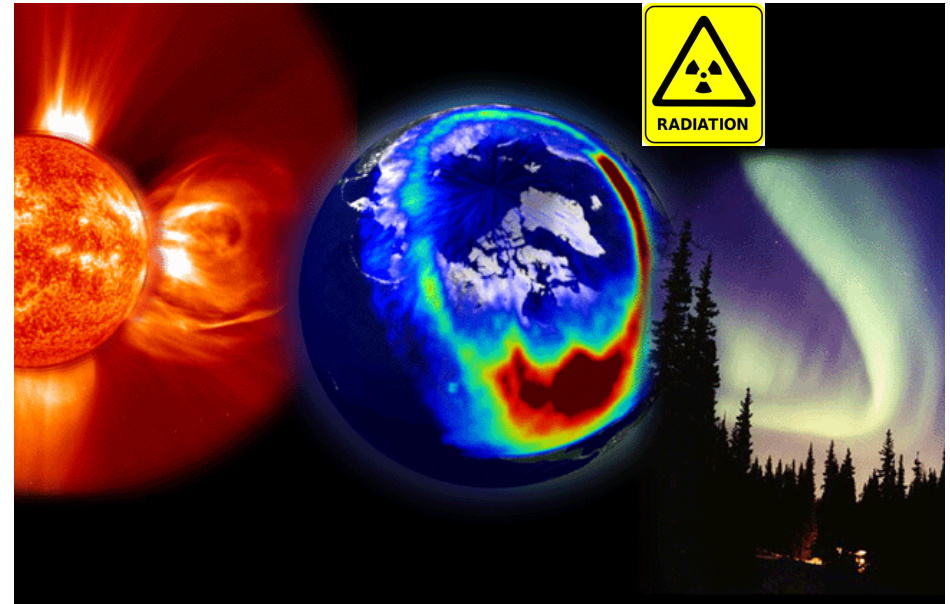


Types of SWx Services

- continued



3. Sending out timely space weather alerts/ forecasts regarding adverse conditions throughout the solar system, such as significant CME events, elevated radiation levels, etc.



4. Providing general space weather support for NASA customers.





Seven types SWx impacts for robotic missions



1. **Spacecraft surface charging caused by low-energy (< 100 keV) electrons**, which are abundant, for example, in the inner magnetosphere during magnetospheric substorms.
2. **Spacecraft internal electrostatic discharge caused by high-energy electrons (> 100 keV)** that exist, for example, in the dynamic outer radiation belt of the Earth.
3. **Single event effects due to high-energy (> 10 MeV) protons and heavier ions** generated, for example, in solar flares and in coronal mass ejection (CME) shock fronts.
4. **Total dosage effects caused by cumulative charged particle radiation** received by spacecraft.
5. **Increased spacecraft drag caused by the thermal expansion of the Earth's upper atmosphere** during space weather storms.
6. **Communication disruptions between ground stations and spacecraft** due to ionospheric irregularities
7. **Attitude control disruptions caused, for example, by large storm-time magnetic field fluctuations** in the geostationary orbit.

Feedback from our annual SWx workshop for robotic missions



SWx impacts on sc (cont'd)



- low-energy protons (< 10 MeV) pose a problem due to trapping into charge-coupled device (CCD) substrates.
- ➔ virtually any part of electron and ion spectra ranging from low to relativistic energies can impact spacecraft operations.



Space Environment Anomalies



- According to a study by the Aerospace Corporation the **2 most common types of spacecraft anomalies by far are due to electrostatic discharge (ESD) and single event effects (SEE)**
- Reported results*:

Anomaly Type:	Number of Occurrences:
ESD	162
SEE	85
Total Dose and Damage	16
Miscellaneous	36

* H.C. Koons et al., 6th Spacecraft Technology Conference, AFRL-VS-TR-20001578, Sept. 2000



Surface Charging



surface charging: which can lead to electrostatic discharges (ESD),

ESD: can lead to a variety of problems, including component failure and phantom commands in spacecraft electronics [Purvis et al., 1984].

Purvis, C. K., H. B. Garrett, A. C. Wittlesey, and N. J. Stevens (1984), Design guidelines for assessing and controlling spacecraft charging effects, NASA Tech. Pap. 2361

<https://standards.nasa.gov/documents/detail/3314877>



Surface Charging (SC)



Commercial satellite anomaly

Substorm injections (Aurora)

More often in the midnight to morning sector

<100 keV e- distribution: similar behavior as SC anomalies

=> Surface charging might be the main cause of the anomalies.

Choi, H.-S., J. Lee, K.-S. Cho, Y.-S. Kwak, I.-H. Cho, Y.-D. Park, Y.-H. Kim, D. N. Baker, G. D. Reeves, and D.-K. Lee (2011), Analysis of GEO spacecraft anomalies: Space weather relationships, Space Weather, 9, S06001, doi:10.1029/2010SW000597.



Surface Charging Hazards distribution

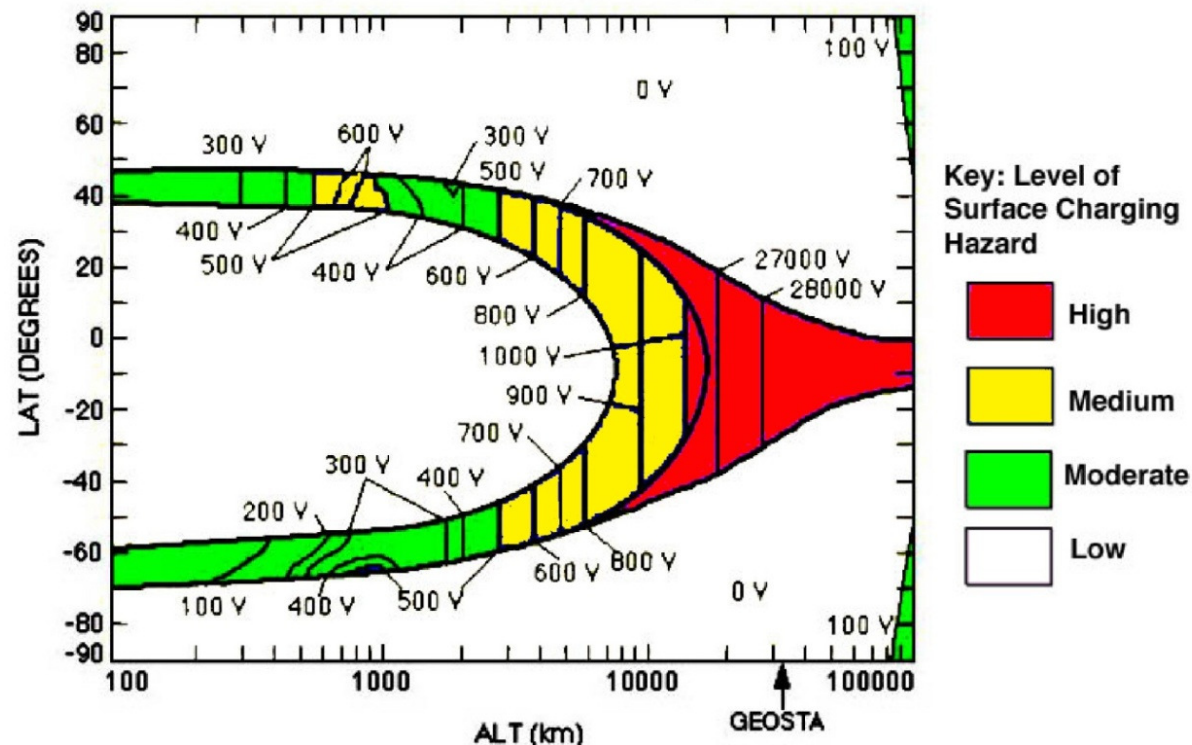


Figure 1—Earth Regimes of Concern for On-Orbit Surface Charging Hazards for Spacecraft Passing Through Indicated Latitude and Altitude (Evans and others (1989))



Title: Mitigating In-Space Charging Effects-A
Guideline

Document Date: 2011-03-03

Revalid and Reaffirmed Date: 2016-03-03

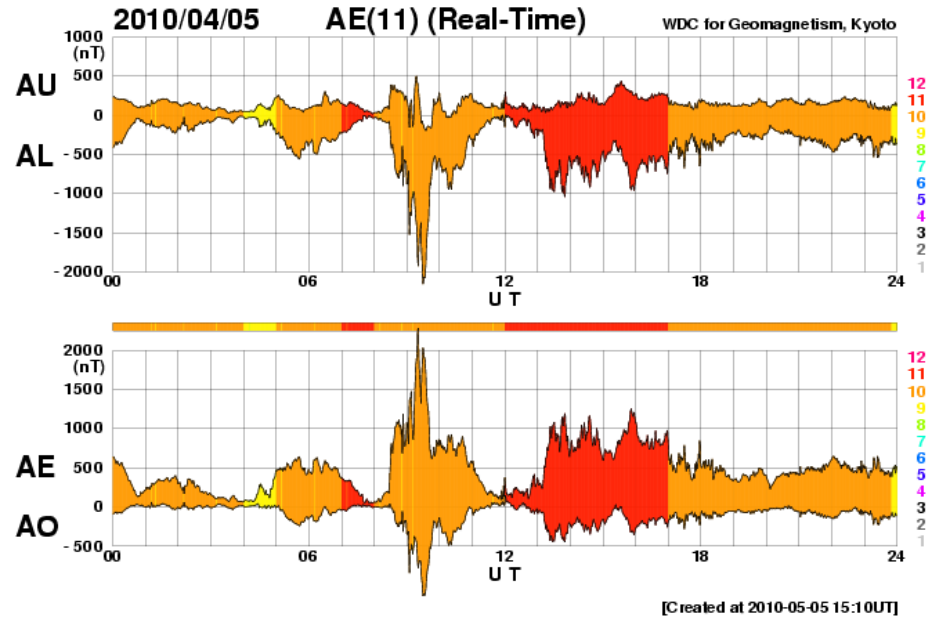
Revision: A

Organization: NASA



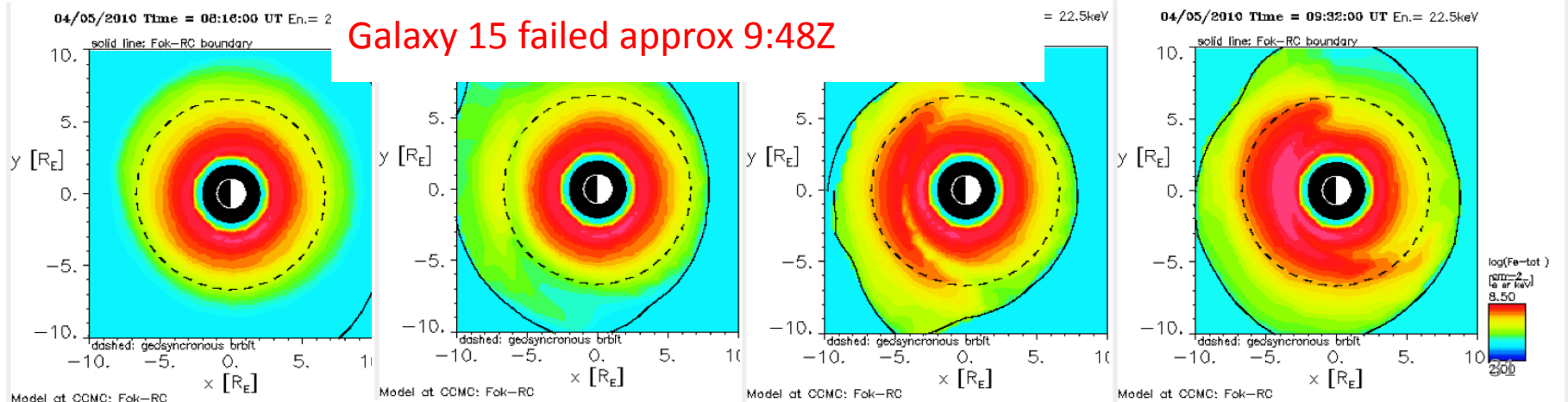
Galaxy 15 failure on April 5, 2010

- surface charging might play a role



22keV electrons 4/5, 8:16-9:32Z

Galaxy 15 failed approx 9:48Z





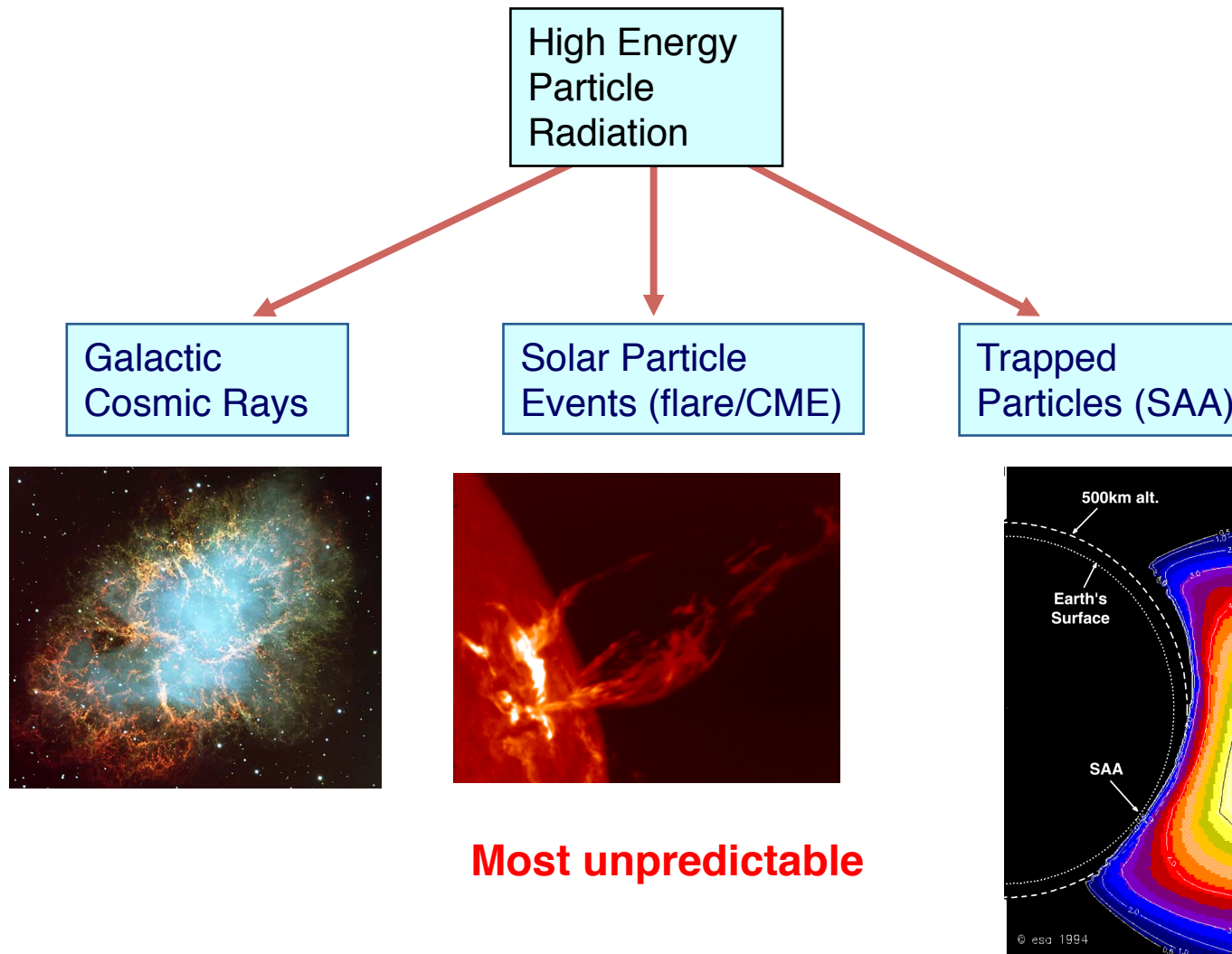
Environmental Source of SEEs



- Single Event Environments in Space
 - Galactic Cosmic Rays
 - Solar Particle Events (flare/CME)
 - Trapped Protons in the inner belt (1 – 3 RE)



SEE source in Space





Galactic Cosmic Rays



- Galactic cosmic rays (GCR) are high-energy charged particles that originate outside our solar system.
- Supernova explosions are a significant source

Anticorrelation with
solar activity
More pronounced/
intense during solar
minimum

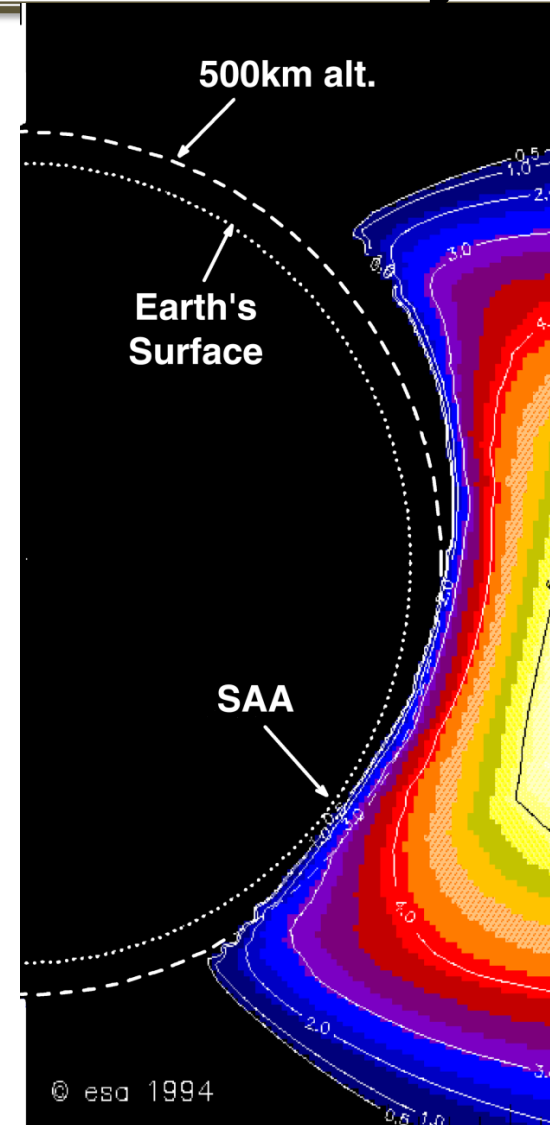




South Atlantic Anomaly

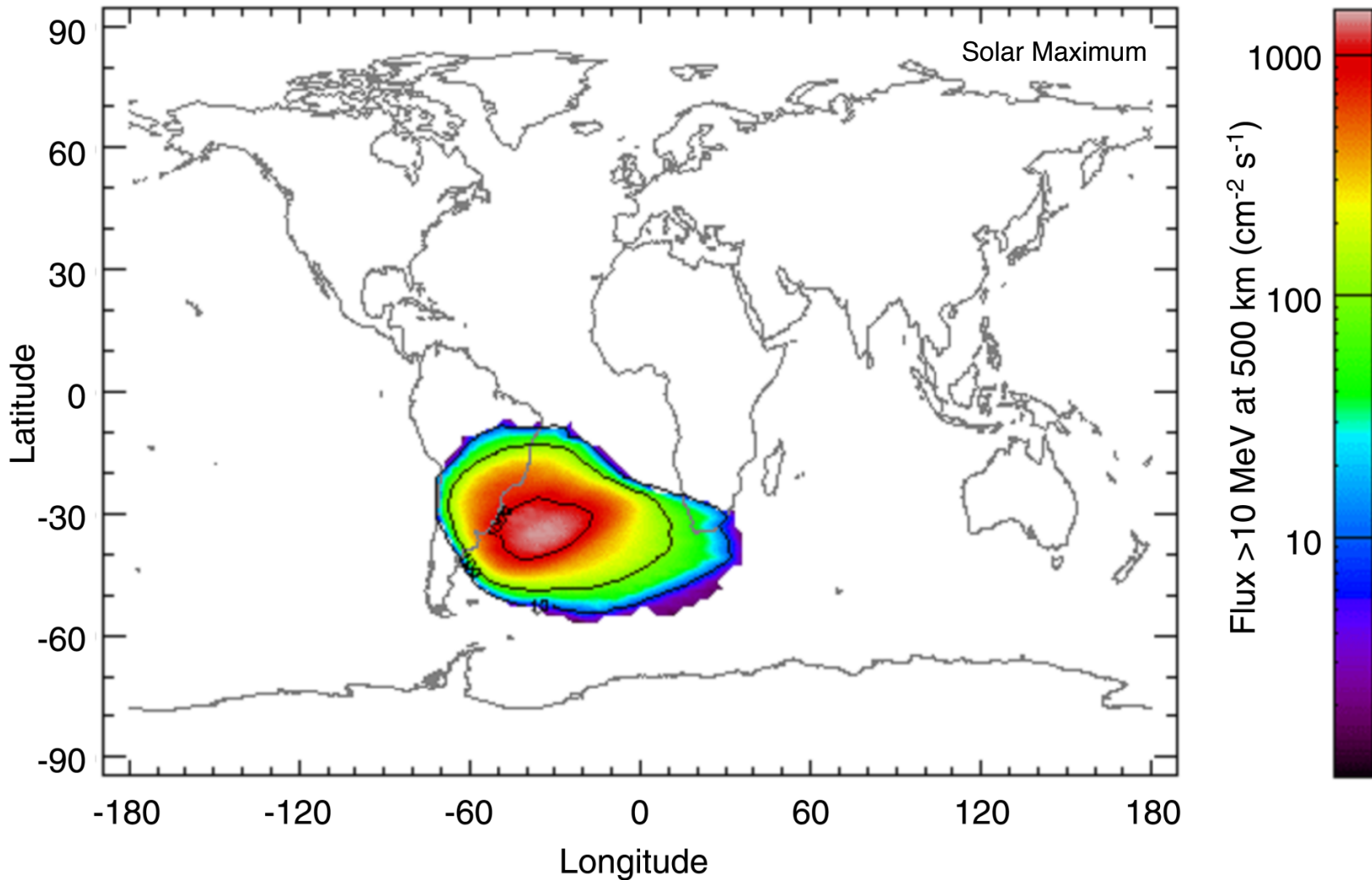


- Dominates the radiation environment for altitudes less than about 1000 km.
- Caused by tilt and shift of geomagnetic axis relative to rotational axis.
- Inner edge of proton belt is at lower altitudes south and east of Brazil.





South Atlantic Anomaly



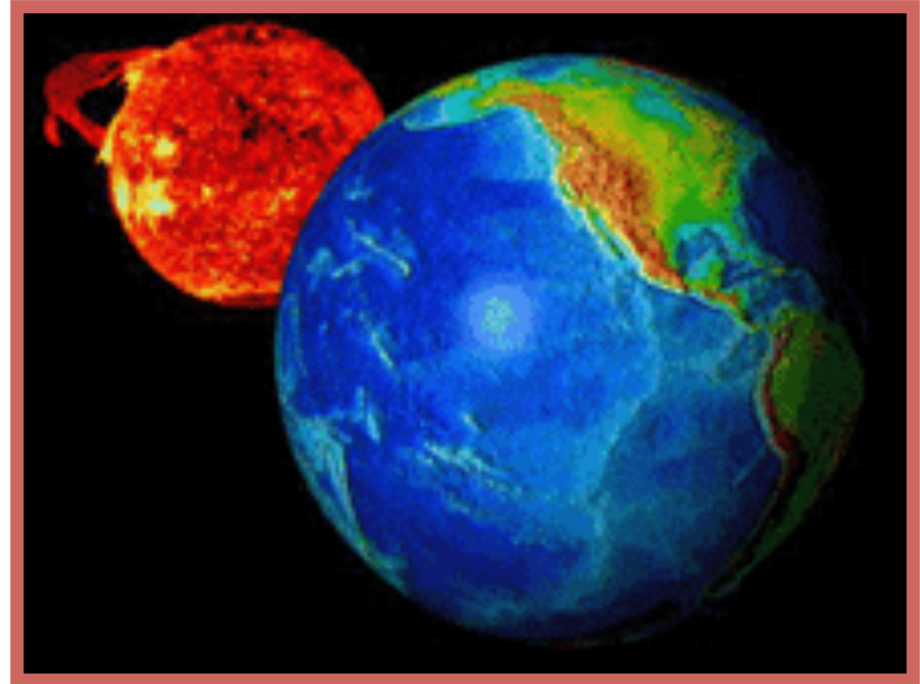
From SPENVIS, <http://www.spenvis.oma.be/>



Solar Particle Events



- Caused by flare/CME

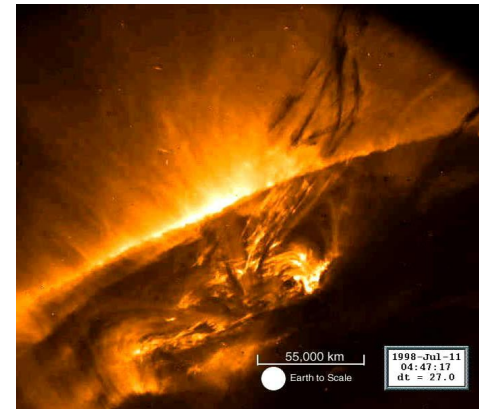
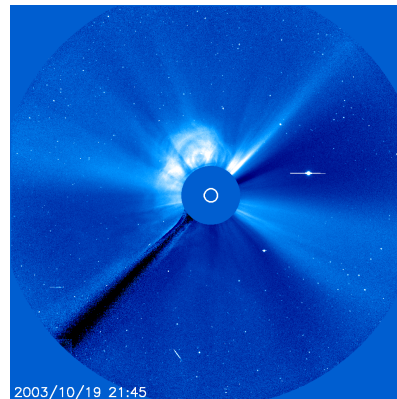
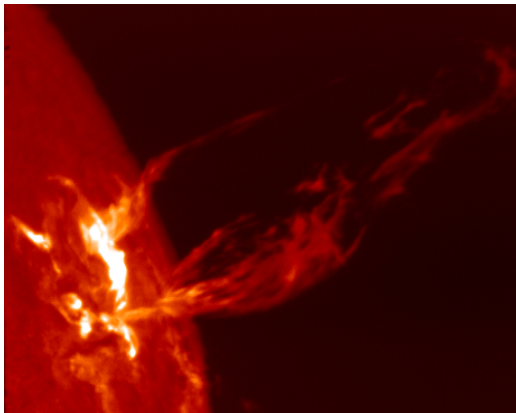




Characteristics of SEPs

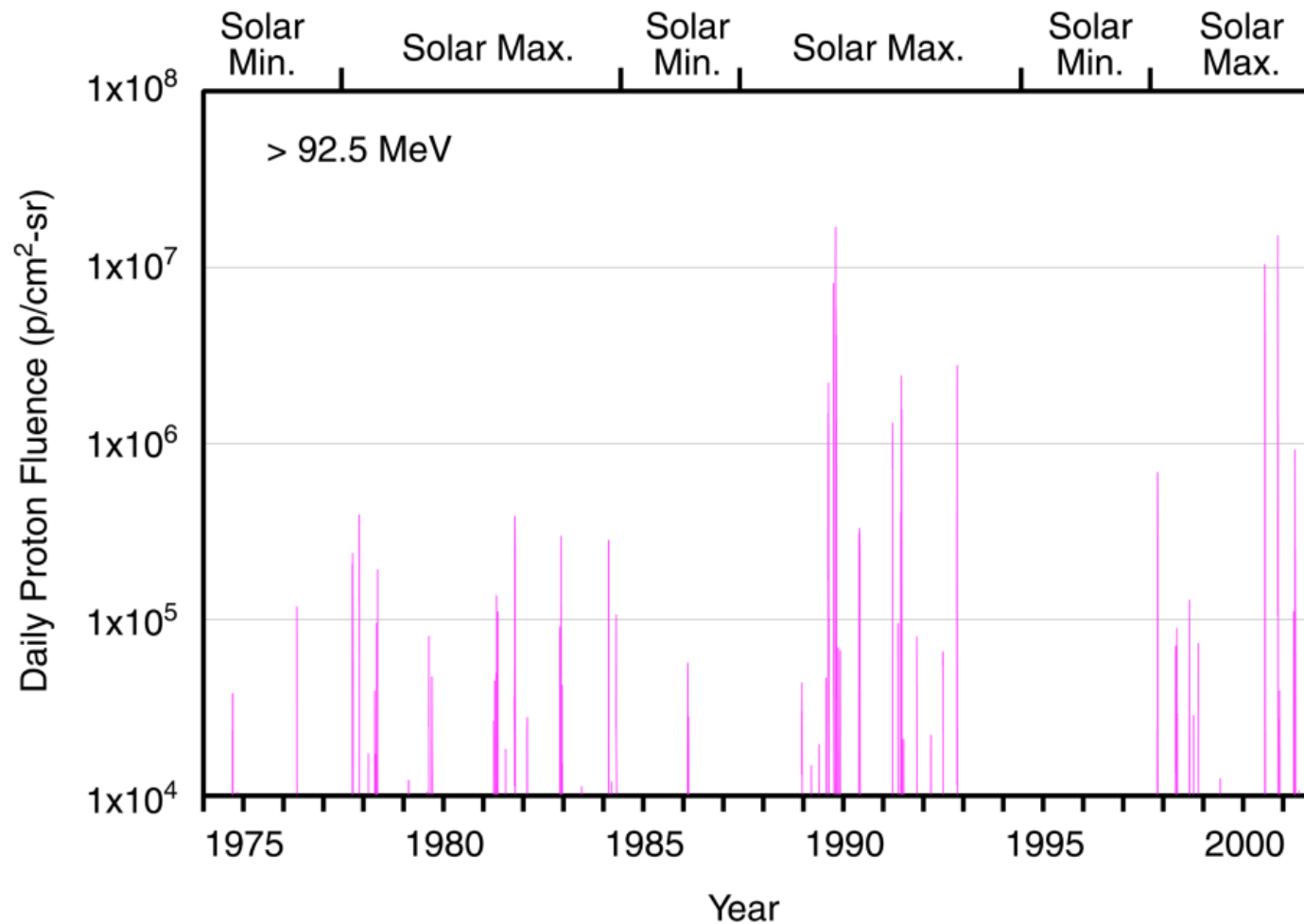


- Elemental composition* (may vary event by event)
 - 96.4% protons
 - 3.5% alpha particles
 - 0.1% heavier ions (not to be neglected!)
- Energies: up to \sim GeV/nucleon
- Event magnitudes:
 - > 10 MeV/nucleon integral fluence: can exceed 10^9 cm^{-2}
 - > 10 MeV/nucleon peak flux: can exceed 10^5 $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$





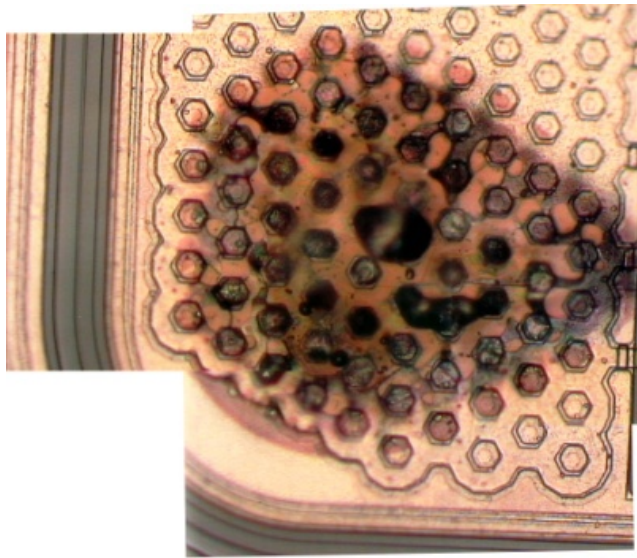
Solar Cycle Dependence





What is a Single Event Effect?

- Single Event Effect (SEE) – any measureable effect in a circuit caused by single incident ion
 - Non-destructive – SEU (Single Event Upset), SET (single event transients), MBU (Multiple Bit Upsets), SHE (single-event hard error)
 - Destructive – SEL (single event latchup), SEGR (single event gate rupture), SEB (single event burnout)



*Destructive event
in a COTS 120V
DC-DC Converter*

(credit: M.Xapsos)



Single Event Upsets



- SEUs: are soft errors, and non-destructive. They normally appear as transient pulses in logic or support circuitry, or as bitflips in memory cells or registers.



Destructive SEEs



- Several types of hard errors, potentially destructive, can appear:
- Single Event Latchup (SEL) results in a high operating current, above device specifications, and must be cleared by a power reset.
- Other hard errors include Burnout of power MOSFETS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor) , Gate Rupture, frozen bits, and noise in CCDs.



Anomalies March 2012 SWx events SEEs dominate



- Quite a few NASA spacecraft experienced anomalies, majority of which are SEEs. Some of them required reset/reboot.

Details to be discussed later.



Internal Charging

- energetic electrons in the outer radiation belt

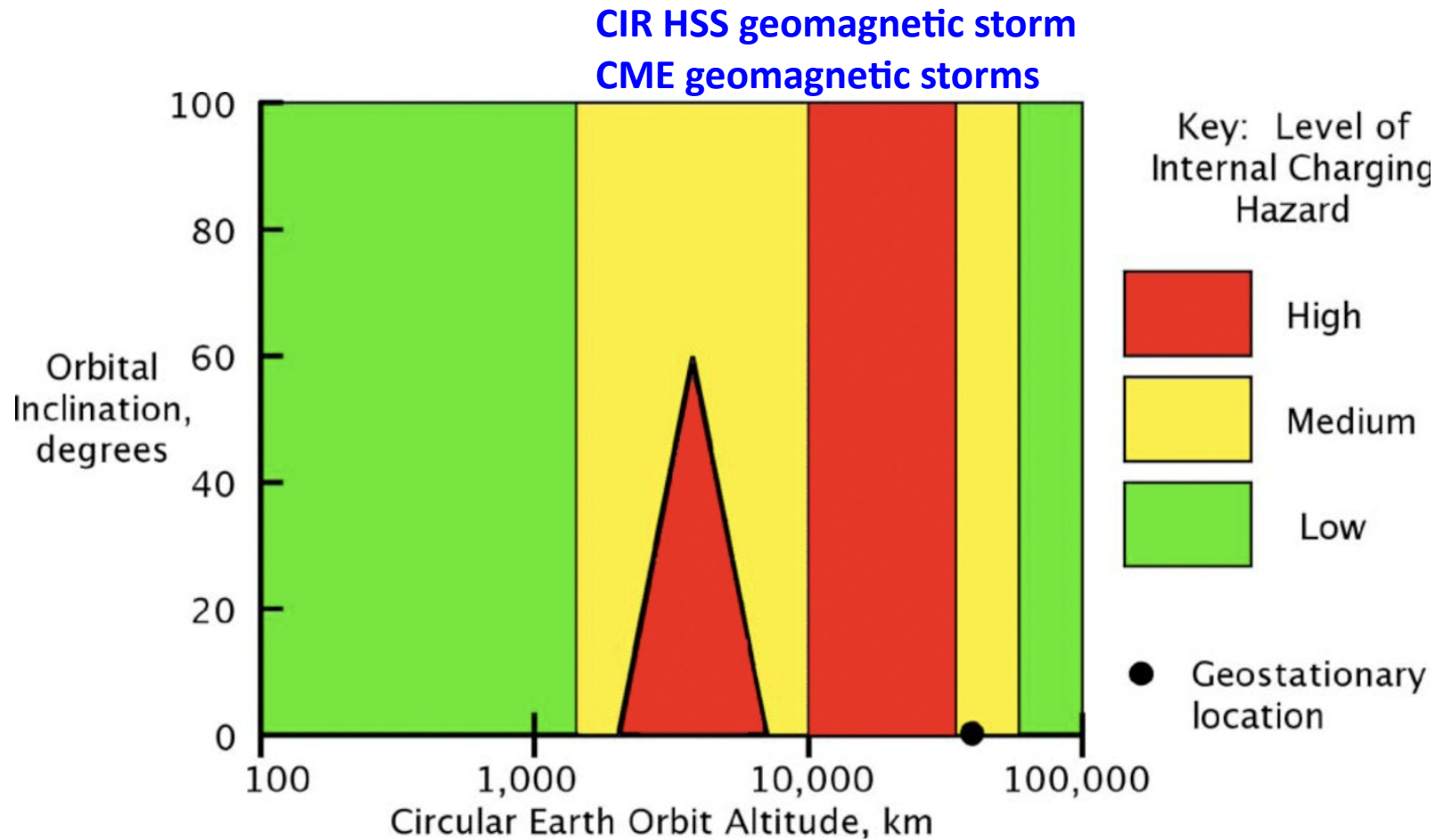


Figure 2—Earth Regimes of Concern for On-Orbit Internal Charging Hazards for Spacecraft with Circular Orbits



Operator response to SWx impacts
spacecraft specific/instrument specific
depends on which region/where the spacecraft is.



Human Safety in Space



- GCR
- **SEP**

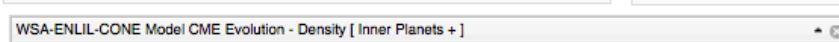
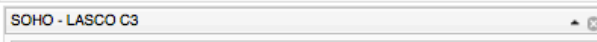
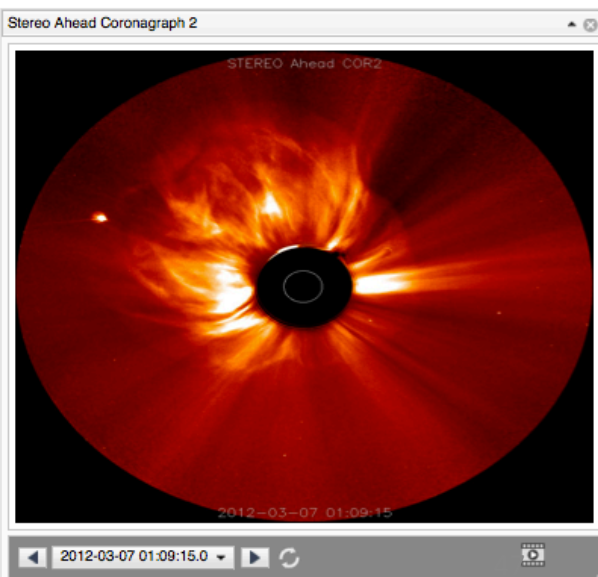
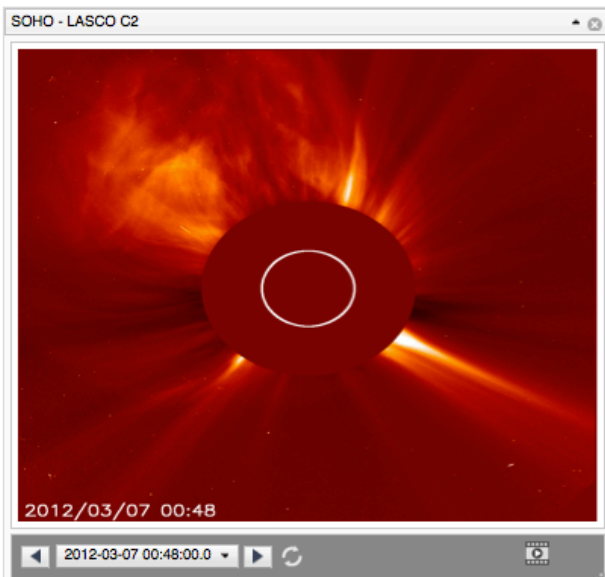
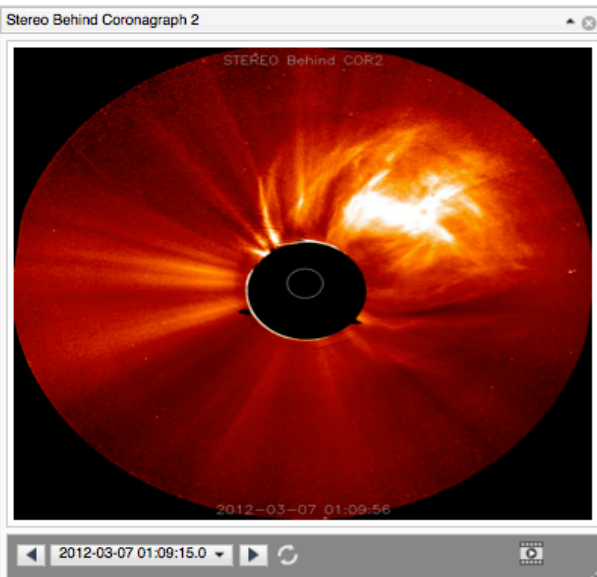
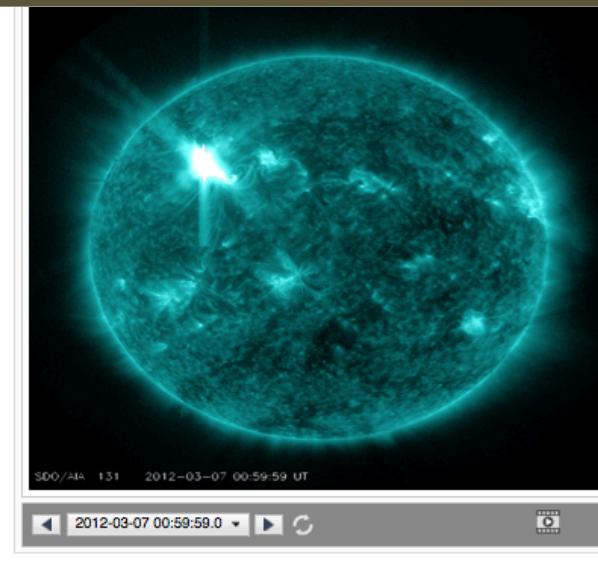
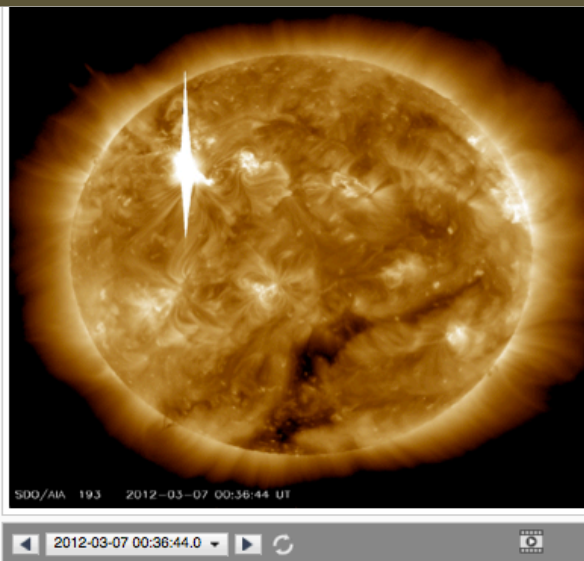
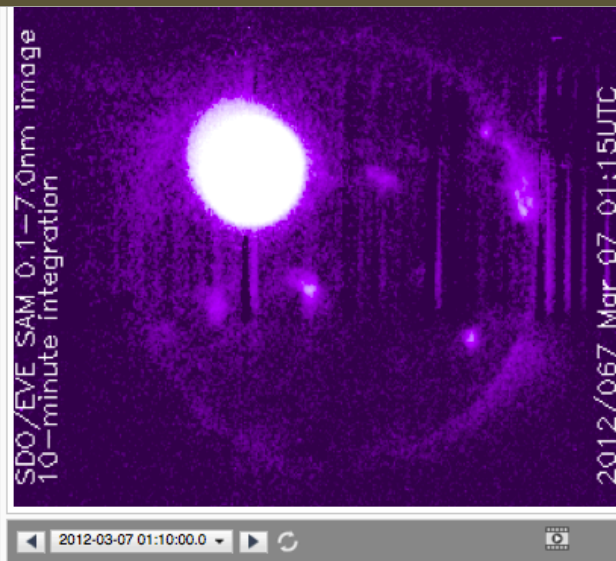
Johnson Space Center/Space Radiation Analysis Group (SRAG)

Limit: the > 100 MeV flux exceeding 1pfu
(1 pfu = 1 particle flux unit = $1/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}/\text{sr}$)

- All clear (EVA –extravehicular activity)



March 7 flares/CMEs

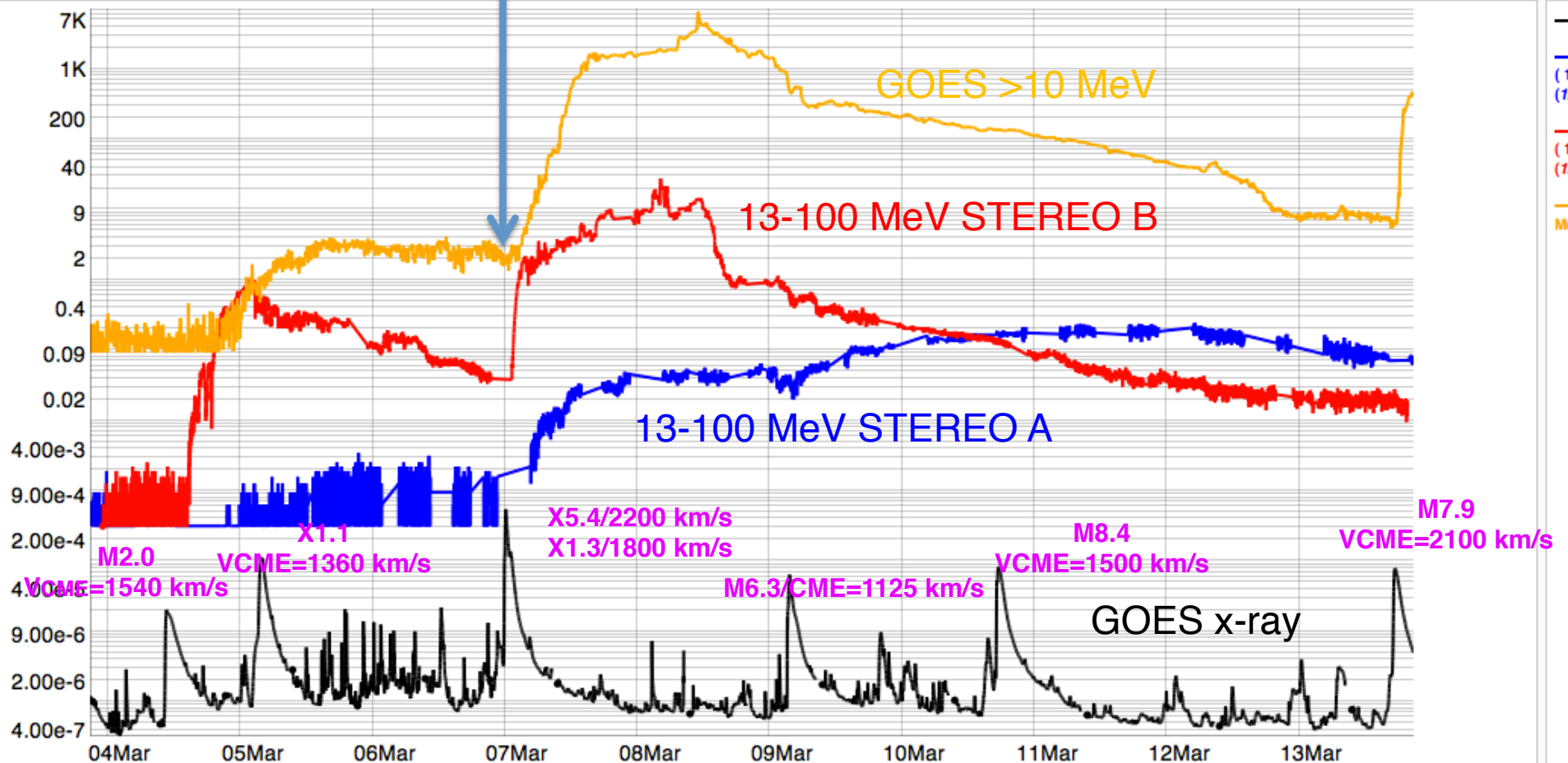




SEP: proton radiation (flare and CME)



ISWA Custom Timeline Cygnet





Major events from the long- lasting AR1429 during March 4 – 28, 2012



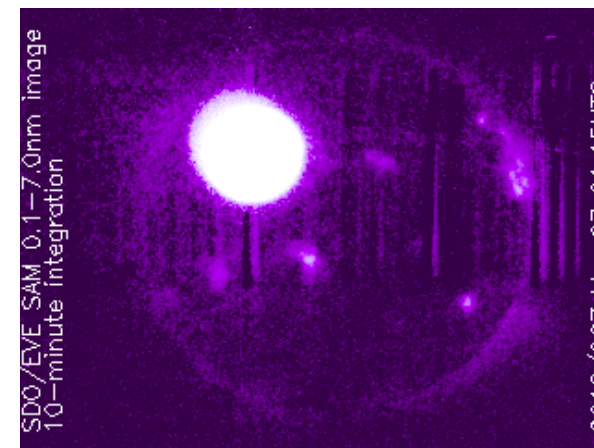
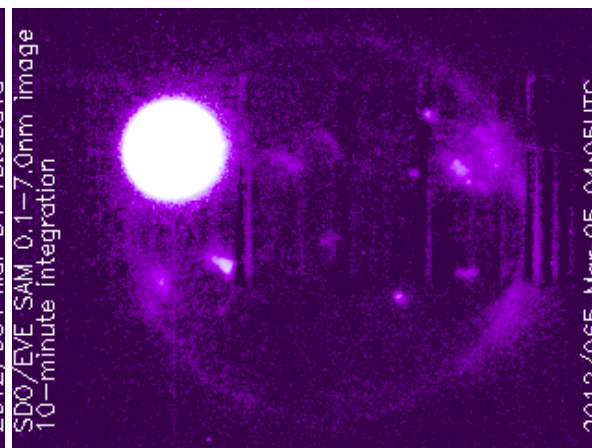
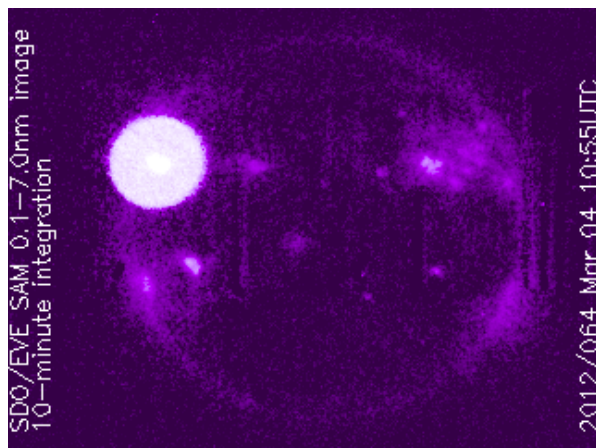
Flares of the Major Earth-Facing Events viewed by SDO EVE (x-ray)



M2.0, 2012-03-04

X1.1, 2012-03-05

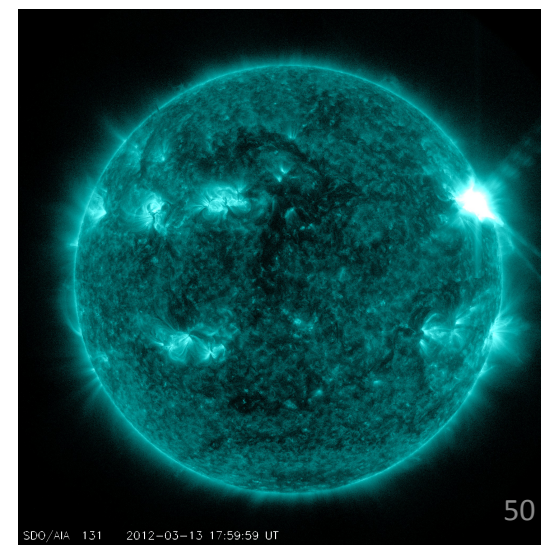
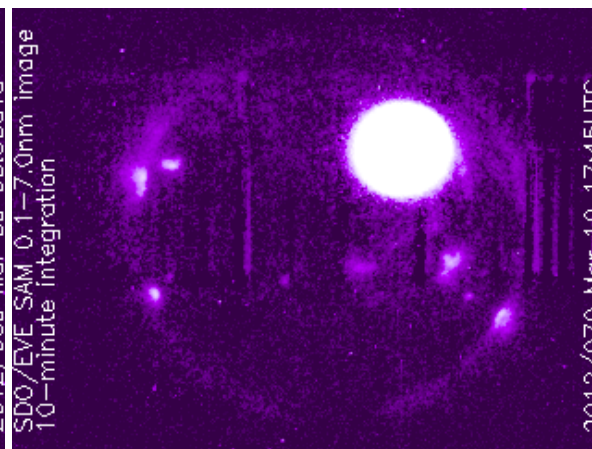
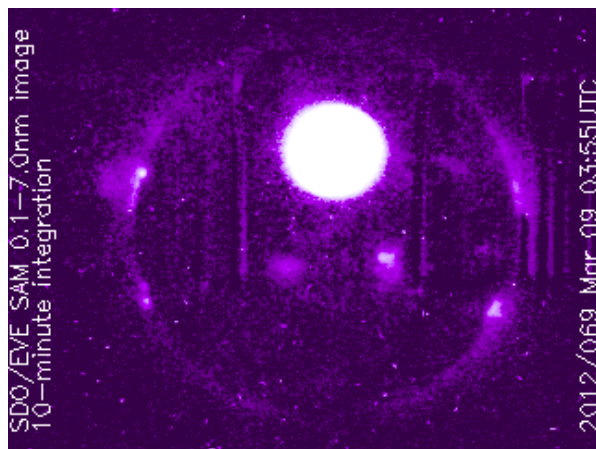
X5.4/X1.3 2012-03-07



M6.3, 2012-03-09

M8.4, 2012-03-10

M7.9, 2012-03-13





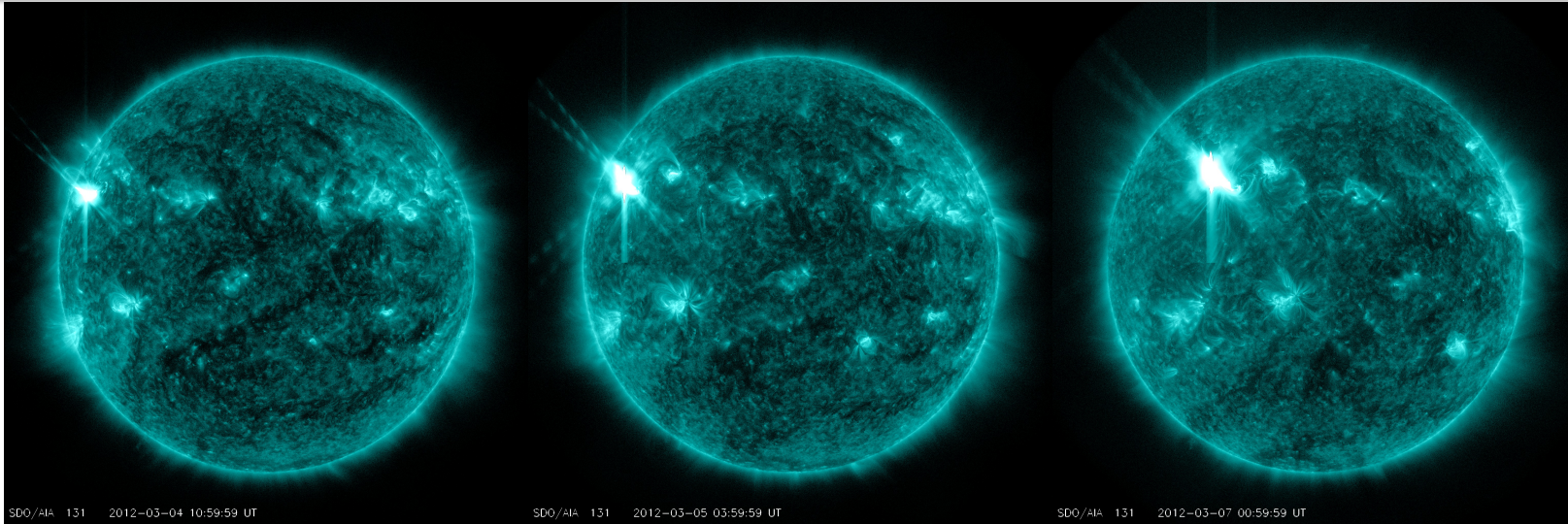
Flares of the Major Earth-Facing Events viewed by SDO AIA 131



M2.0, 2012-03-04

X1.1, 2012-03-05

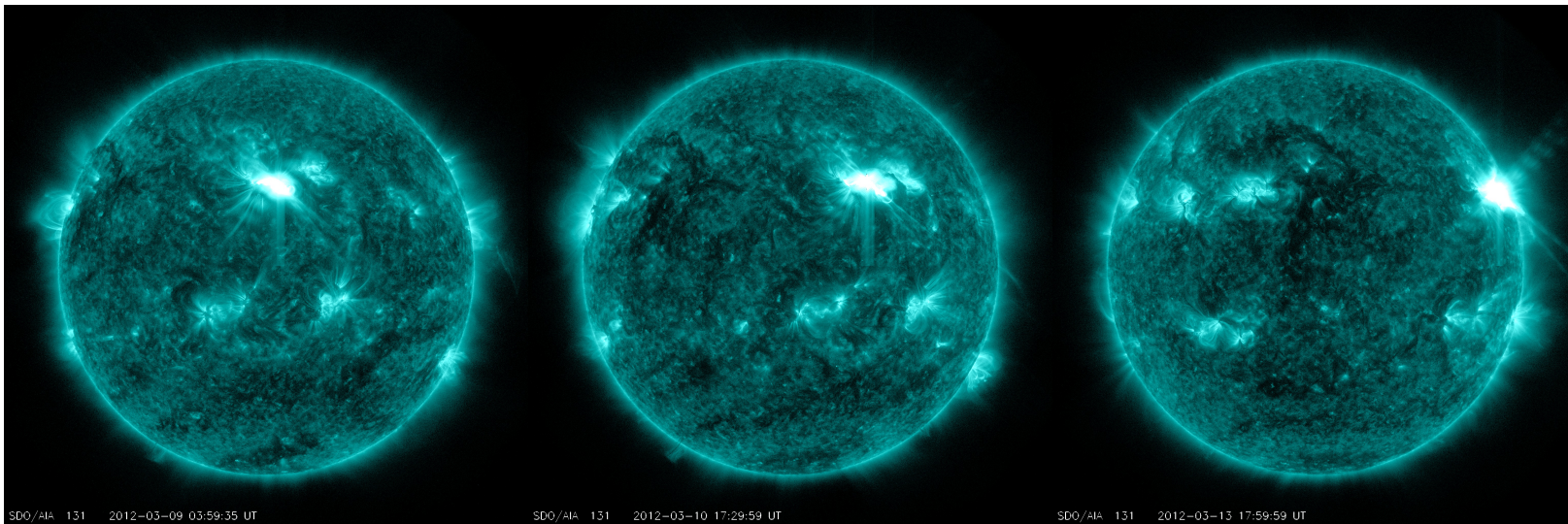
X5.4/X1.3 2012-03-07



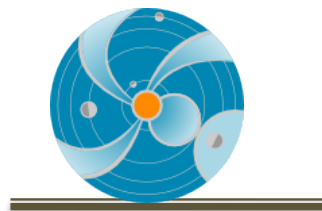
M6.3, 2012-03-09

M8.4, 2012-03-10

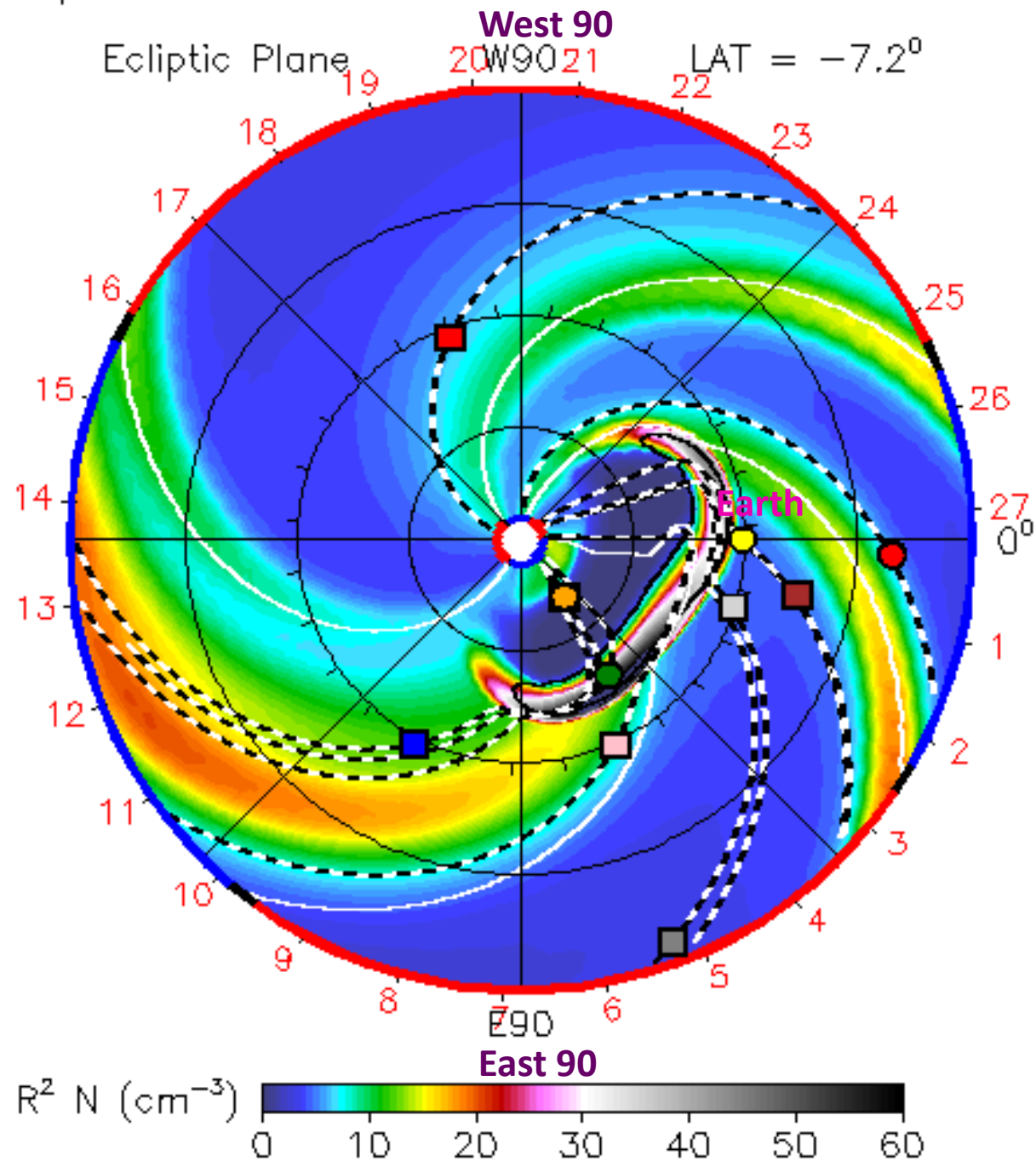
M7.9, 2012-03-13



2012-03-08T06:00



- Earth
 Mars
 Mercury
 Venus
- Spitzer
 Stereo_A
 Stereo_B

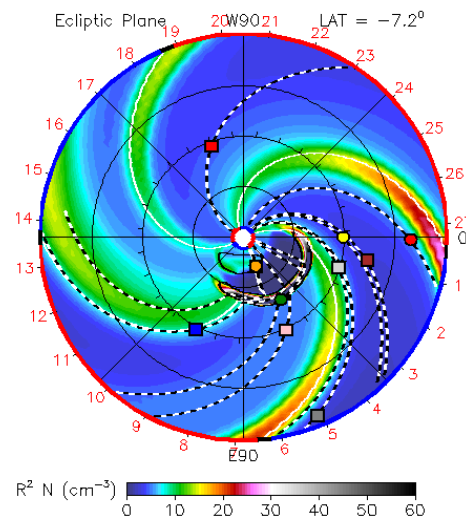




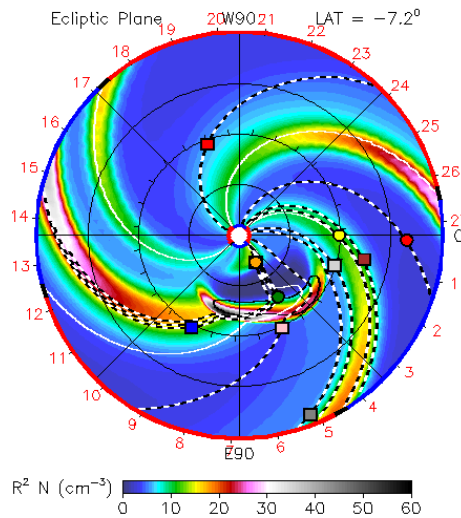
The Corresponding CMEs Associated with the Flares



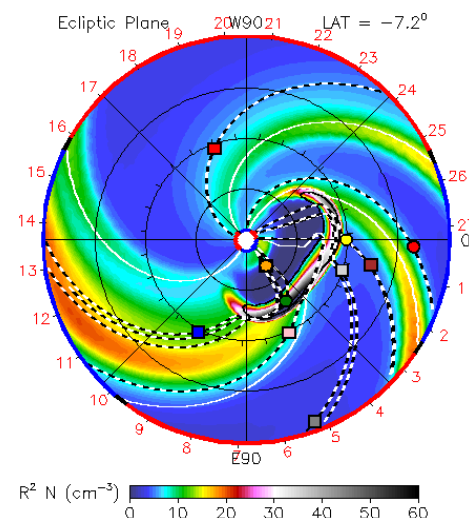
M2.0, 2012-03-04



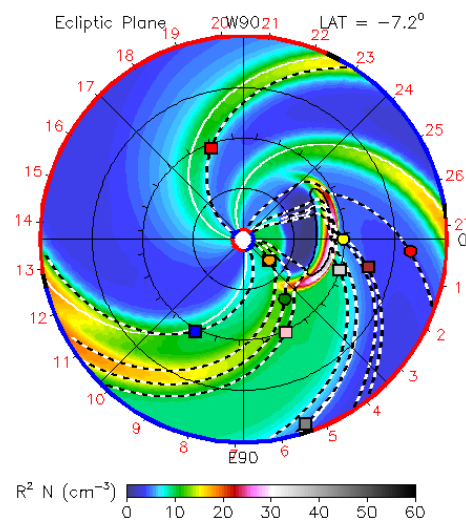
X1.1, 2012-03-05



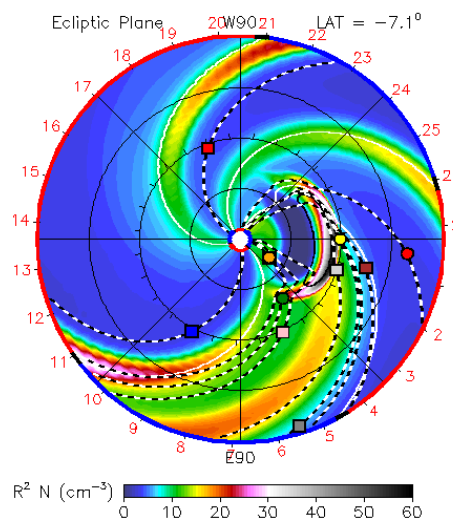
X5.4/X1.3 2012-03-07



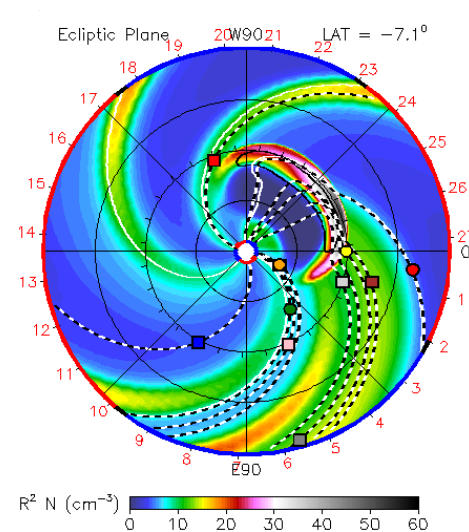
M6.3, 2012-03-09



M8.4, 2012-03-10



M7.9, 2012-03-13





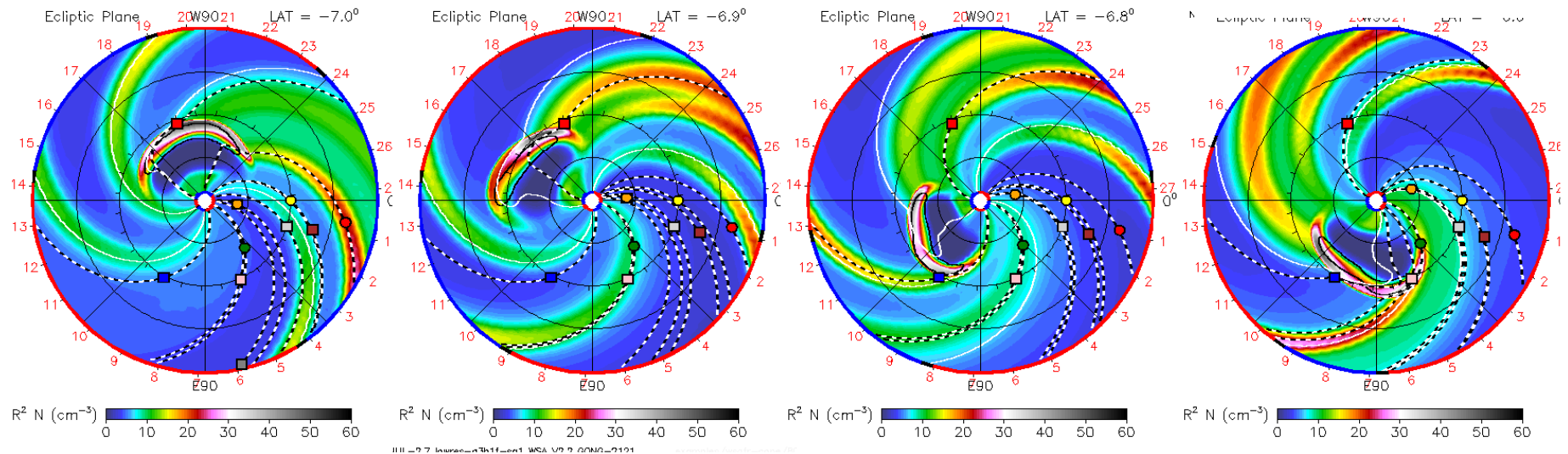
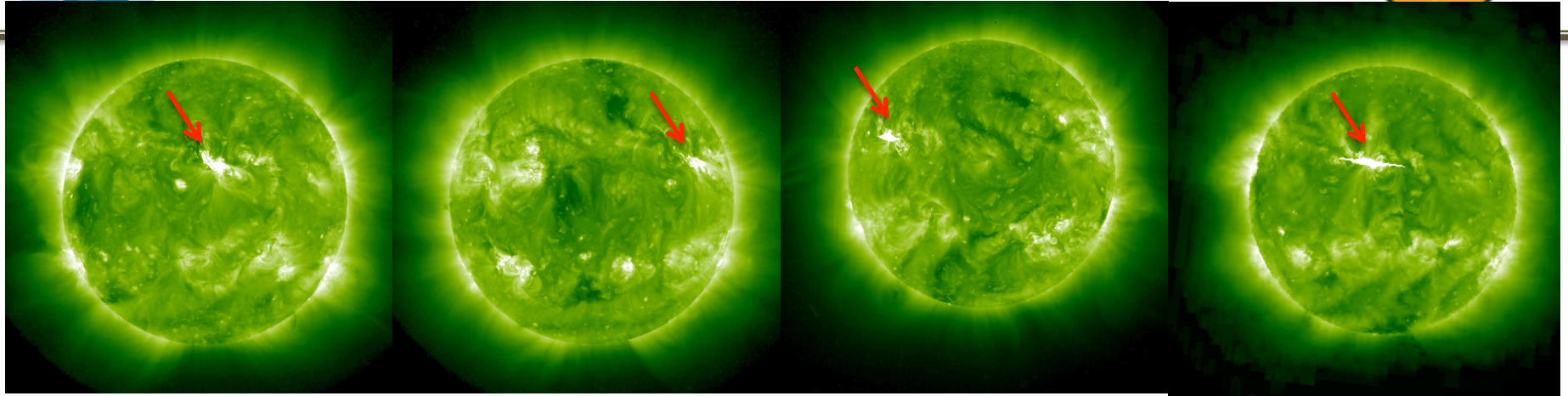
STA: 2012-03-18

STA: 2012-03-21

STB: 2012-03-24



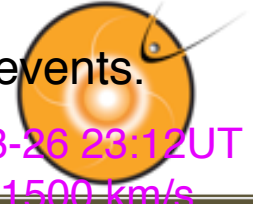
STB: 2012-03-26



Backsided events in STEREO EUVI 195A (top) and CME model simulations (bottom)



Enhanced proton radiation at STEREO A and B from the backside events.



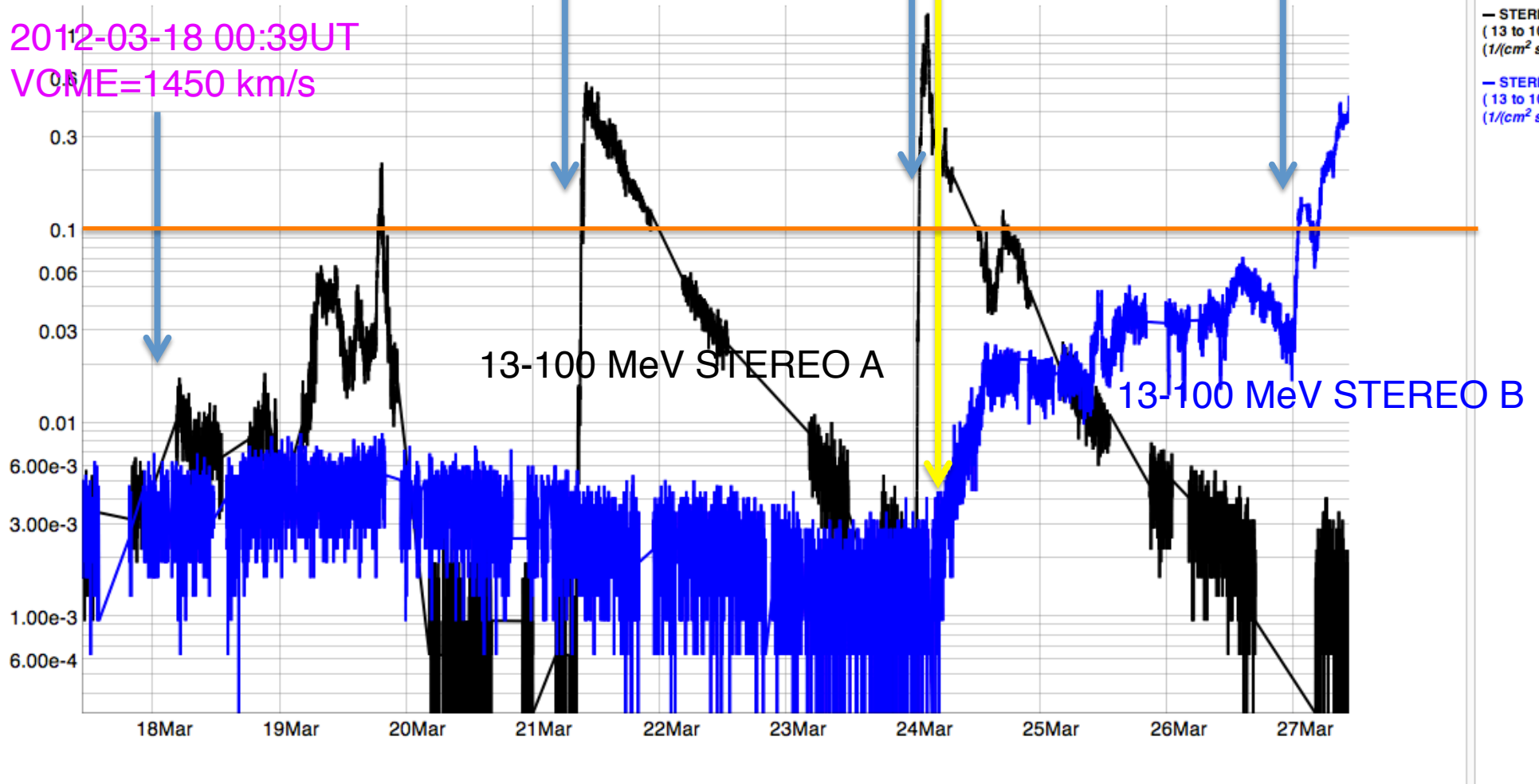
2012-03-21 07:39 UT
VCME=1550 km/s

2012-03-24 00:39 UT
VCME=1600 km/s

2012-03-26 23:12 UT
VCME=1500 km/s

iSWA Custom Timeline Cygnet

2012-03-18 00:39 UT
VCME=1450 km/s





Supplementary Material/contact info



- View our video, Incredible Active Region 1429: One for the record books, to learn more about the activities from this region from March 4 – March 28, 2012.

<http://youtu.be/PbyJswbX4VA>

- This video has been updated at the following link:

<http://youtu.be/dxI5drPY8xQ>

(And also available on <http://vimeo.com/nasaswc/ar1429>)

- Summary Video of the March 7, 2012 event

<http://youtu.be/HeoKf6NfEJI>

Full text of event summary

<http://goo.gl/dTnfd>

NASA Space Weather Center

<http://swc.gsfc.nasa.gov/main/>



homework



Name all types of space weather impacts on spacecraft and their potential causes

Types of spacecraft orbits

Go over the summary video of the 7 March 2012 event - can you give a 30 seconds – 1minute description of the event to a friend?

Go over the video of ‘Incredible Active Region 1429’ – can you give a 30s – 1min description in your own words?



Spacecraft Anomalies due to the March Solar Activities









Acknowledge: feedback from people involved in robotic missions




Orientation

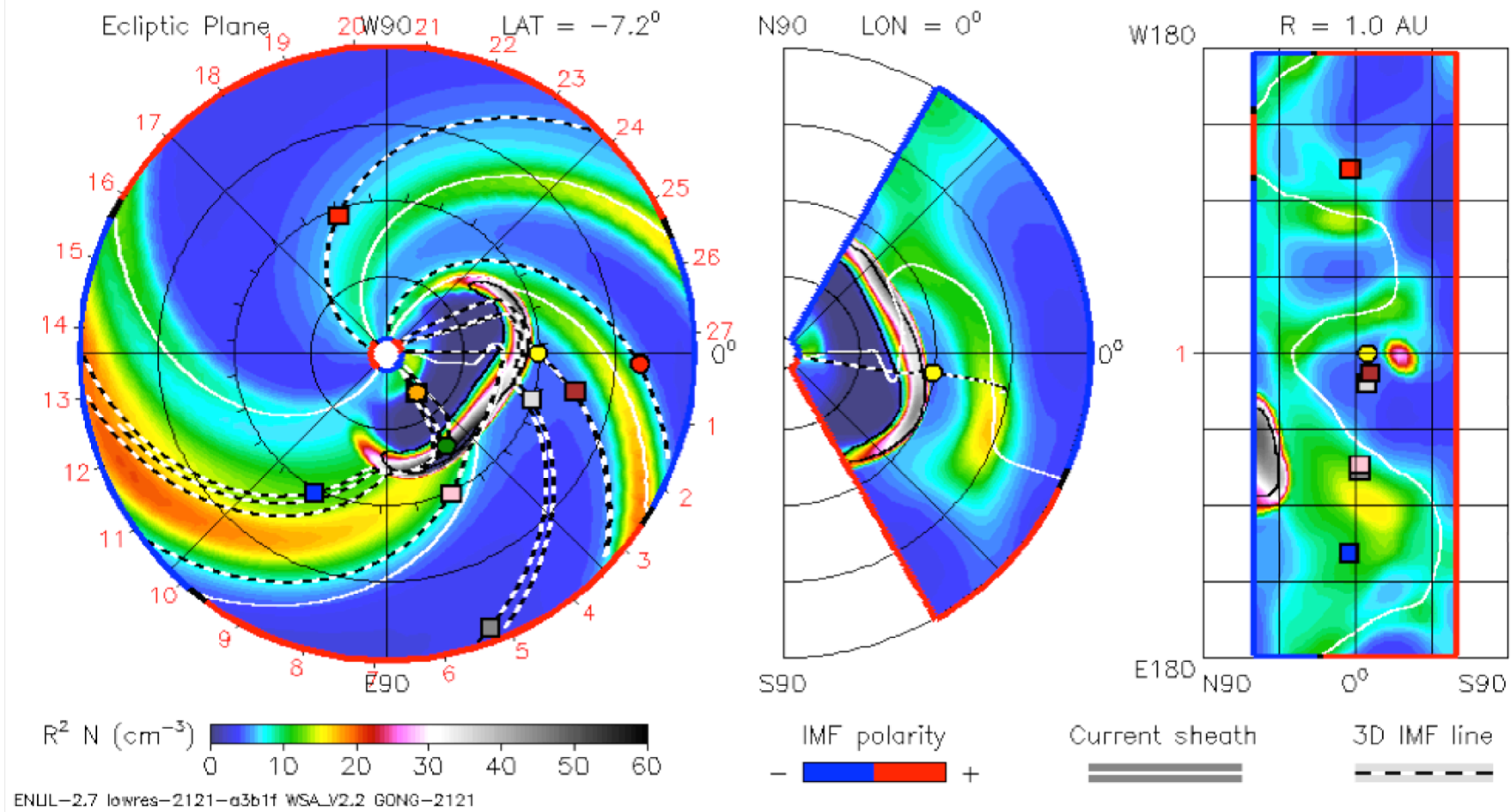


2012-03-08T06:00

2012-03-06T00 +2.25 days

 Earth
  Mars
  Mercury
  Venus
  Juno
  Kepler
  Messenger
  MSL

 Spitzer
  Stereo_A
  Stereo_B





Interplanetary missions

MESSENGER

- 11 instances of anomalous behavior have been identified to be associated with the increased solar activity in early March 2012.
- The spacecraft attitude control system (ACS) and 5 of the seven science instruments were temporarily affected, but all were quickly returned to nominal operations.
- The Magnetometer (MAG) and the Mercury Laser Altimeter (MLA) were the only instruments that showed no adverse effects.



Interplanetary missions



MESSENGER

- MESSENGER/FIPS (The Fast Imaging Plasma Spectrometer) experienced ~ 7 SEU in its flight software memory, one of which was critical to require reboot
- The instrument microchannel plate bias voltage spontaneously lowered below the threshold (at 2012-03-07T 04:40 UT, shortly after the two x-class flare/CME/SEP event) where counting takes place. So all data collection stopped.



Interplanetary missions



- JUNO – no anomalies
- STEREO A
 - SECCHI instrument reset at 2012-03-09 04:12:00Z
 - 27th since launch, suspect not environmentally induced.
- WIND/SMS(STICS and MASS) – reset by internal latchup detection, manually restored on 8 March.
- ACE/SWICS and ACE/SWIMS – not affected



Interplanetary missions



- Dawn
 - a possible single event upset of the main camera (often)
 - Detected significantly increased level of proton flux arriving at spacecraft (on the opposite side of the sun from Earth at about 2.4 AU from the sun).



Lunar missions



- LRO
 - One instrument interrupted by a SEU and a star tracker processor reset. Neither of them can be definitively associated with the solar events, since both have also occurred during quiet solar periods.
- GRAIL
 - (3/7/2012 04:00 UT– 3/9/2012 03:30 UT) MoonKAM on GR-A and GR-B encountered a fault due to enhanced SEP. each was powered off.
 - Powered on 3/13 (GR-A) and 3/14 (GR-B) after space weather activity subsided.
 - MoonKAM: EPO purpose, commercial grade – not screened for space radiation environments



Other missions



- **IBEX-HI**
 - The lowering of the high-voltage on IBEX-HI due to excessive counts
- **THEMIS**
 - A couple of recurrent anomalies on THEMIS likely caused by energetic electrons
 - 3/11/2012 BAU experienced cold reset – THEMIS E
 - 3/14/2012 BAU PCM packet generation halted – THEMIS D

Loss of data collection

Bus Avionics Unit (BAU)



Earth missions



Terra, Aqua, Aura, TRMM, GRACE, SORCE, Clousat

- Grace-1
 - Instrument processing unit (IPU) redundant side failed on 3/9/2012 23:20Z, cause unknown
 - On-board data handling unit experienced a warm boot on 3/10 02:39:05Z (tentatively believed to be unrelated to IPU failure)
 - ~ 6 hour data loss
- Terra
 - High gain Antenna Motor Drive Assembly is prone to SEUs, typically see 2-3 issues per week regardless of solar activity although does increase during solar activity

Time of Events	Lat.	Long.
03/01/2012 12:11:19	-13.025	-27.235
03/05/2012 00:53:33	-25.402	-31.916
03/06/2012 12:32:48	-21.865	-33.881
03/06/2012 21:47:59	61.374	-4.586
03/07/2012 19:11:51	56.148	37.311
03/08/2012 05:10:05	75.294	-133.239
03/08/2012 07:45:15	-75.613	-104.779
03/08/2012 15:54:13	-78.804	-127.576
03/08/2012 17:41:45	-66.953	91.896
03/08/2012 19:09:05	-70.565	-153.84
03/13/2012 01:45:06	-16.193	-46.431



Earth missions (cont'd)



- JASON-1

- On March 3, the satellite entered **a safe mode** due to an Error Detection and Correction anomaly in a flight software memory location (double-bit error in either EEPROM or RAM). This is a known memory problem originating from **Single Event Upsets**, and caused similar safe hold transitions to occur in both 2006 and 2009. The satellite currently remains in a safe mode pending a recovery resolution process.

- AQUARIUS/SAC-D

- The CONAE (Argentina)/SAC-D experienced an altitude control safe mode transition during a planned Aquarius cold sky calibration sequence on 3/14. Determined to be caused by moon intrusion. **Not space weather related.**



Earth missions (cont'd)



- CALIPSO
 - 07 March 2012 08:10 UTC Payload commanded to 'SAFE' mode in response to eruption of Class X5.4 flare
 - 13 March 2012 12:18 UTC Restarted payload computer
 - 13 March 2012 22:56 UTC Payload commanded to 'SAFE' mode in response to eruption of Class M7.9 flare
 - 19 March 2012 11:47 UTC Payload Computer restarted
 - 20 March 2012 16:39 UTC Lasers restarted and normal measurement operations resumed

The CALIPSO payload computer and laser are sensitive to enhanced levels of energetic heavy ions. Significant damage to either of these components is considered a high risk and a threat to the mission.



Happy ones (with mixed feelings)



- LRO
 - Ecstatic with their data collection of SEP from the CRaTER instrument
- RAX-2 (NSF cubeSat)
 - March solar event periods: happily running SWx experiments. Our services helped them plan their experimental campaign
 - (sad) RAX-2's flash memory system failed during the Jan 23 solar event (likely cause – SEP radiation)
 - Peak flux (Jan 23): 6310 pfu at Jan 24 15:30 UT*
 - Peak flux (Mar 7): 6530 pfu at Mar 8: 11:15 UT*
- Dawn Mission
 - SEP measurements



Great Science Dataset/Outcome
during the March Solar Events
too!



Anomaly resolution procedure



- Where is the satellite?
- Check if SEPs (solar energetic particles) play any role
- Any significant flare at the time?
- What is the geomagnetic activity?
- Scintillation effects?
- If the satellite in the radiation belt? What is the flux level? Could it be a factor?



Anomaly case

- EO-1 can no longer see recorded data during the back-orbit due to a known failure of our WARP system. We are essentially blind when not in contact with the SC, nor is the housekeeping data recorded. Therefore, we cannot pinpoint when the SEU occurred. On Julian day 159, 1443Z, we executed a successful contact and image return. When we came up on our next pass @ 1610Z we could see we had experienced an anomaly somewhere in the back-orbit. The following alerts were received: FOT saw some SCL warning pages for the mnemonics: WSCLWARNCNT= WARP SCL number of warnings executed WSCLALERTCNT= WARP SCL number of alert cmds executed. XBHYPRTR = XB Hyperion Retries counter XBHYPRTE= XB Hyperion Error counter XBHYPCME = XB HYP command error. We saw an error saying "WMDL206 CCSTART rej bad state: loCldState 5, at 160/10:27z. We saw that the WARP MD command error counter had tripped and automatically reset. If your team has the time to look at whether the M5.9 flare, geomagnetic storms, or other associated event may have impacted our operations, it would be greatly appreciated. At this point we are speculating this may have been the case. We are in the process of recovering and there has not been a repeat anomaly which would indicate an on-board failure. So it was likely a one-time incident.